

TOWN OF BRANFORD
CENTER REVITALIZATION REVIEW BOARD
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06405

Norbert Church, Chairman
Phil Carloni
Earl Lind
John Herzan
Tricia Bohan
R. Anthony Terry
Schuyler Coulter

Branford Town Hall
P.O. Box 150
1019 Main Street
Branford, Connecticut 06405

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BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

MINUTES

The Town Center Revitalization Review Board
Regular Meeting, 8:45 a.m., Wednesday, February 08, 2017

Members Present: Chairman Norbert Church, Tony Terry, Schyler Coulter, John Herzan

Absent – Phil Carloni, Tricia Bohan, Earl Lind.

Staff Present: Town Planner – Harry Smith, Assistant Town Planner - Rich Stoecker, Diana Ross – Inland Wetlands Officer.

1. Minutes: January 11, 2017, S. Coulter made a motion to approve the minutes. T. Terry seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4-0.
2. New Business: Diana Ross noted this was a follow up progress report on a Main Street Tree Replacement program. Diana addressed the TCRRB last year on the issues with a replacement tree program. Diana distributed the following documents to assist in the review and discussion:
 - 1) Main Street Tree Replanting Project – Notes from January 17, 2017 meeting with Larry Appleton (Landscape Architect) and Janice Plaziak (Branford Town Engineer)
 - 2) Report from Larry Appleton based on the original Design Criteria and Guidelines for the Branford Town Center, prepared by Selbert Design Associates, 1987

General Issues Discussed

- History of Bradford Pear tree street planting program (40 years ago). Chanticleer Pears have replaced the Bradford Pears that have splintered or become diseased.
- Review of the Sections or Blocks (A, B, C, D, E)
 - Block A – Harrison Ave to Park Street
 - Block B – Park Street to Hillside Ave.
 - Block C – Hillside Ave to Veto St (including the Montowese St./Main St. Intersection.
 - Block D – Veto St. to Ivy St.
 - Block E – Ivy/Svea Street to East Main Street
- Discussion of Larry Appleton suggestion to replace all or most all of the Bradford Pear trees and replace with botanical diversity of trees. Due to the space between buildings and street the replacements should be fastigiata (permanently narrow species). A listing of fastigiata trees was reviewed.
- Discussion of considerations of diversity in street tree plantings, preference for non invasive species which helps to protect against disease spread.

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- Aesthetic concerns were deemed very important with vivid leaf foliage and blossoms expected by public, use of taller trees (London Plane) in specific areas (intersection corners), similar size and shape of trees, and possible use of tree grates and tree pit location.
- Discussion on consistency with street plantings including color, uniformity of shape and height of trees. Effort to intersperse shade and flowering trees along streetscape. Use of Columnar bigger trees for the storekeeper side mixed with flowering trees moving down the street.
- Possible use of cherry trees similar to use in Wooster Square area of New Haven was discussed along with continued use of flowering trees on the Town Green side of street scape.

The Board appreciated the work by Diana Ross, Tree Warden in continuing to flesh out a comprehensive design for Main Street Tree Replacement Program. The Board briefly described possible funding sources.

3. Planners Report

H. Smith brought the Board up to date on current projects including the following:

- 1) Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) consultant selection update.
- 2) R-1 two family and multi family moratorium extended until August.
- 3) Zoning regulation amendments being prepared to include possible sign regulation change in Town Center.
- 4) Atlantic Wharf appeal rejected by the Court.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM

Minutes prepared by Richard Stoecker, Assistant Town Planner.