

**Community Forest Commission
Meeting Minutes for 2/15/2024**

Topic: Community Forest Commission February 2024 Monthly Meeting
Date and Time: February 15, 2024 5:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Location: Joseph Trapasso Community House

Attendees: Ivy (Bigelow) Kim, Doreen Larson-Oboyski, Susan Hally, Shirley McCarthy, Abigail Adams (guest)

Absent: Gary Zielinski

Meeting convened at 5:40 PM

1. Approve January 2024 minutes
Kim 1st motion, Hally 2nd motion
All approved
2. Vote to approve Ivy Kim and Susan Hally (Co-Chairs)
Ivy Kim nominated by Shirley McCarthy, Susan Hally nominated by Ivy Kim
Vote unanimous.
3. FY 2024 tree plantings
 - a. Discussed tree plantings and tree offerings on request form
 - b. Kim spoke with Alex Paluzzi re: planting at Foote Park. He plans to include tree plantings in the Parks and Recreation budget. Currently, there are funds available in the Parks and Recreation budget for tree removal.
 - c. Kim will request 2 Margaret Ryan Memorial trees and 1 Arbor Day tree. Kim suggested that these trees be planted at Foote Parke to provide more shaded areas.
 - d. Adams mentioned that deadline for applying for Arbor Day Grant is 2/24/2024.
 - e. Reviewed list of trees included on Tree Request Form. Committee consensus to include Amelanchier (serviceberry) on list of tree offerings.
 - f. Kim encouraged members to canvas their neighborhoods re: interest in planting native trees on right-of-way in front of their property.
 - g. Committee consensus that honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) should not be included on the list.
 - h. Discussed importance of determining salt-tolerance of trees planted on roadsides. Hally will research salt-tolerance of trees offered by town.
4. Business
 - a. Kim will receive transfer of documents from Patrick Sweeney (former chair)
 - b. Committee consensus to participate in Earth Day celebration and Branford Festival. Kim will file applications for both.
 - c. Arbor Day is 4/19/2024. Possibility of celebrating the event with other town commissions.
 - d. The issue of Town of Branford emails not being received by those with Google or Yahoo accounts is currently being addressed by IT Department.

Ivy Kim
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

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- e. Discussed email from Dr. Tina Mannarino re: tree removal across the street from her property by Eversource. McCarthy spoke with Dale McLeod from Eversource, then followed up with Dr. Mannarino. Eversource has plans to install high voltage wires in that area. Kim will follow-up with Gary Zielinski and First Selectman Cosgrove.
- f. Kim and McCarthy spoke with Chris Donnelly to explore options for hiring town forester and formulating management plan for entire urban forest in Branford. Kim will arrange a special meeting of the CFC, P. Sweeney and R. Shanahan, chair of Branford Parks and Open Space Authority, to discuss collaborating on this project.
- g. Reviewed map showing area from center of Branford to Exit 55 along S. Main Street that needs trees.
- h. The CT Urban Forest Counsel Annual Conference will be held on 2/29/24 at the Aqua Turf Club.

Other Business

- a. Peter Henschel has mentioned an interest in starting a tree bank or tree fund in Branford. Discussed logistics of this endeavor.
- b. Larson-Oboyski will attempt to contact the developer of the new MetroStar apartments to inquire about tree plantings along Rte. 1.

Larson-Oboyski 1st motion to adjourn, McCarthy 2nd motion, all approved

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM