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Wai E. Arpin
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

Community Forest Commission Special Meeting
Meeting Minutes for 3/13/24

Topic: Cross-Commission Meeting re: Forest Management Planning for Town of Branford
Date and Time: March 13, 2024 at 6:30 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Location: Blackstone Memorial Library

Attendees: Susan Hally, Ivy Kim, Shirley McCarthy, and Patrick Sweeney (Conservation and Environment Commission)

Rich Shanahan (chair, Parks & Open Space Authority) absent due to illness

Meeting convened at 6:41 pm

Topic: Discussion with representatives from other town commissions to formulate a comprehensive town forestry management plan

Issues for consideration:

- a. Need for centralized management of trees on town ROW's and/or other properties
- b. On March 1st, I. Kim and S. Hally met with First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove. He mentioned availability of money from contingency fund to hire professional arborist to perform tree survey
- c. Discussed need for individual to manage tree survey data
- d. R. Shanahan is concerned about funds required to develop a forestry management plan, per discussion with S. McCarthy
- e. Hire forester with expertise in mapping to manage forested areas
- f. P. Sweeney walked selected town properties with state forester to assess forest health, provide forest description and recommend forest management plan
- g. Find out what CT towns have received grants for town forest management plan
- h. Review other CT towns' forestry management plans
Example: Fairfield's Community Forest Management Plan
- i. P. Sweeney explained process for approval of a town project
 1. Make proposal to town for project
 2. Once project approved, funding allocated for project
 3. Call for bids for project
- j. Involvement of Parks and Open Space Authority and Conservation Commission
- k. Branford Land Trust and RWA may want to be involved
- l. Sustainable CT funding program to support local initiatives
- m. I. Kim mentioned that Tyler Bowne (Compliance & Sustainability Manager) may be interested in being involved
- n. Inland Wetlands Commission may want to be involved
- o. Need to generate map showing known open space properties in town
- p. As a pilot project, conservation commission generally agreed to develop forestry management plan/tree inventory for isolated properties as a pilot project

Other Information:

Branford Conservation Commission is doing a NRI (Natural Resources Inventory) in April- Commission members will be notified of presentation details.

SCRCOG- South Central Regional Council of Governments- is doing a regional tree canopy survey using LIDAR.

Kim-1st motion to adjourn, Hally- 2nd motion, all approved

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm