

**BRANFORD GREEN COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
HELD MARCH 12, 2024**

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Wendy Estep
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: David Minicozzi (*Dave*), Ann Freeman, Pat Sanders, Susan Winkel and Joe Cutrona

GUEST: Gary Zielinski, Director of Public Works

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:31PM
2. **Parliamentary-**
 - a. **Minutes-** *Dave* moved that the minutes of February's special meeting be approved, *Ann* seconded and after discussion they were unanimously approved.
 - b. **Departing members-** it was announced that *Cynde Jasek* has resigned due to personal matters. *Dave* will reach out to the church for her replacement. *Cindy Wright* will continue in her role as representative for the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce.
3. **Updates & Old Business:**
 - a. **Correspondence-** None.
 - b. **Status of the Green-** Per *Gary*, stump grinding of the removed trees will begin soon; the new Christmas tree is in good shape; the portable toilet area looks good; the Pollinator Garden will soon be rejuvenated for the spring. *Gary* would like to see the garden expanded, but we tabled further discussion until the May meeting to have more members involved in decision making. The garden will hopefully have an educational component added, e.g., QR codes, literature available to the public etc.
 - c. **Special Projects-** **i. STEAP grant and Main Street projects-** no new information available; **ii. Tree Tags & QR Codes-** *Joe* gave a full report on the project. About 65 trees will be tagged as start; all trees have been given both a botanical and common name, all of which will be posted to the Town website; **iii. Garden Club-** *Ann* reported that the **Mae McCabe Garden** will be re-done with a concentration on being pollinator friendly. *Dave* asked that a bench remain as part of the Garden. He also suggested a small garbage pail be installed adjacent to the bench as garbage have been found sitting on the bench, and the nearest receptacle is nowhere near the Garden; **iv. Winnifred Judge Garden-** it was suggested that Nardella Turf Care not be in charge of care for the Garden. *Pat* will reach out to them to address that issue.
4. **New Business:**
 - a. **Green Use applications-** **i.** applications were submitted by Trinity Church/First Congregational Church/Community Dining Room for an *ecclesiastical service* on June 8th, 2024; **ii.** Branford Community Gardens will have a *Plant and Seedling Sale* on May 18th, 2024; **iii.** The Branford Compassion Club will have an *Easter Bake Sale* on March 30th, 2024, and; **iv.** Branford Park 'n' Rec will present *musical and other department activities* throughout the summer, details as they are planned.
 - b. **Tree planting plan, donations etc.-** discussion of replacement of the *cherry tree* across from Ashley's. Before any other trees are planted *Joe* and *Ann* will work together to provide a master list of appropriate trees for the Green, to be planted strategically instead of on an ad hoc basis.

- c. **Arbor Day April 26th**- the ceremony will consist of dedicating some of the recently planted sycamore trees to the memory of **Dr. David Colley**. **Dave** will reach out to **Barbara Colley** to coordinate same.
5. **Other-** discussion of **Joe's** extensive notes regarding the Tree Tag Project and as it intersects with the plan to place all of this information on the Town website; discussion of the type and character of sidewalks to be installed throughout the Green; **Joe** made a motion for permission for First Congregational Church to remove the river birch adjacent to the church. **Dave** seconded the motion and after discussion it was unanimously approved.
6. **Adjourn-** **Dave** moved for an adjournment, **Ann** seconded and after discussion the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 6:45PM

The next Green Committee regular meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, May 14th, 2024 at 5:30PM at the Community House, room TBA.

Respectfully submitted,

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David C. Minicozzi, Chairman and Secretary Pro Tem