

TOWN OF BRANFORD
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
RULES & ORDINANCES COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2022
7:30 PM

The Rules and Ordinances Committee of the Representative Town Meeting of Branford will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at half-past seven o'clock p.m. at the Branford Community House, 46 Church Street, Branford. The following items will be discussed:

1. To review town Community Forest Commission and Tree warden ordinances, Chapter 16, Article I and II of the Town Code.

Peter Black, Chair

DISCUSSION OF REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 16, COMMUNITY FOREST COMMISSION; TREES

Article I, Community Forest Commission

Article II, Tree Warden And Public Tree Protection

Comments by PH

General Comments – Article I:

Section 16-1, Purpose, **note:** does not reference the public safety aspects of community trees. The sole focus is on the preservation and value of public trees (which is of course a valuable mission)

Section 16-2, Powers and Duties, [of the Commission] has some very specific duties which need to be achieved and communicated

Section 16-2 Powers and Duties, refers to the Commission's generation of both a Comprehensive Tree Management Plan and an annual Community Forestry Plan but does not provide any guidance or requirement for implementation.

Suggestions:

- Add a sentence in Section 16-1, Purpose – stating that diminishing the risks to public safety caused by dead, dying or unhealthy trees and shrubs is also a role of the Commission
- Add a sentence to Section 16-2 A, Powers and Duties – providing a deadline for the development of a *Comprehensive Tree Management Plan* and a requirement that it be posted on the Town website
- Add a sentence to Section 16-2 A, Powers and Duties – providing an annual deadline for the establishment of the *Annual Community Forestry Plan* and a requirement that it also be posted on the Town website.

General Comments - Article II, Tree Warden and Public Tree Protection:

Section 16-6, Purpose - **note:** is devoid of any reference to tree management regarding objectives of public safety.

Section 16-8, Tree Warden, appointment and qualifications - **note:** the current term per state statute is 2 years. There is no reference to the reappointment process after 2 years based on the fulfillment of the Responsibilities and Duties of the Tree Warden

Section 16-8, Tree Warden, appointment and qualifications - **note:** does not require the Tree Warden to Licensed Arborist, which **perhaps it should.**

Section 16-8, Tree Warden, appointment and qualifications - **note:** does require the town to “contract the services of a Connecticut Licensed Arborist to work in a consulting role with the Tree Warden” but does not specify the nature of the contract or specific role of the Arborist.