

**TOWN OF BRANFORD
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
RULES & ORDINANCES COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022**

Meeting started at 7:00pm at the Community House ~

Peter Black, Chair

Peter Hentschel, Adrian Bonenberger, Tricia Anderson, Josh Brooks were in attendance. Absent were David Wells and Sean Kelly

Also in attendance: First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove; Town Planner Harry Smith, Minority Leader Tracey Everson, Representatives Frank Twohill, Carolyn Sires and Chris Sullivan

The following items were discussed:

1.) To consider, and if appropriate, adopt a policy for virtual meetings into our Town Meeting Rules.

Various scenarios with pros can cons were discussed regarding virtual meetings.: where could the public attend; who operates the device during the meeting; is this option a Chairman choice,;is a personal or Town issued device needed and will this be for sub-committees only or both RTM and sub-committees among other considerations. Rep. Sullivan offered to return with specific proposals and language.

Motion to re-refer by Adrian Bonenberger; Second by Peter Hentschel and passed unanimously

2.) To consider a request from the Town Planner, pursuit to policy adopted by Planning and Zoning, that Branford “opt-out” of universal “as-of-right” accessory dwelling unit additions for property owners. Absent a vote by 2/3’s of the RTM to opt-out, single family zoning will be effectively eliminated in Branford and property owners will have a right to add an accessory dwelling unit regardless of lot size, impact on neighbors, health and safety, etc.

Town Planner Harry Smith provided the legal notice published in *The Sound* regarding the Planning and Zoning Commission's vote to "opt-out" of this policy for the R&O Committee members and for public discussion. Following resolution was proposed:

"Having received notice that the Planning and Zoning Commission, after a duly warned Public Hearing per CGS Section 8-7d, the Town of Branford, has voted to "opt-out" of provisions Section 6, subsection (a) to (d) of Public Act 21-29, the RTM, as the legislative body of the Town of Branford "opts-out" Section 6 subsection (a) to (d) of Public Act 21-29 as provided by Section 6, subsection (f) of said Public Act."

Motion to recommend above to full RTM and made to "opt-out" by Josh Brooks; Second by Adrian Bonenberger and passed unanimously.

3.) To review the Town tree warden ordinances, Chapter 16, Article II of the Town Code.

There was much discussion regarding the tree warden role, duty, authority and credential requirements along with the current ordinance that is in place. Rep. Hentshell offered to draft specific proposals for revisions to the ordinances.

Motion was made to re-refer by Josh Brooks; Second by Adrian Bonenberger, motion passed unanimously

Motion to adjourn at 8:31pm by Peter Hentschel; Second by Josh Brooks

Peter Black, Chair
Trisha Anderson, Clerk