

TOWN OF BRANFORD
RTM R&O COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022

Meeting started 7:35 at the Community House

Peter Black Chair

In attendance: Josh Brooks, Adrian Bonenberger, Peter Hentschel, David Wells, Tricia Anderson. Absent: Sean Kelly

Also in attendance: First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove, RTM Members Frank Twohill, Carolyn Sires and Chris Sullivan; Community Forest Commission Patrick Sweeney, other commission members, and other members of the public.

The following items were discussed:

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

This item was presented by RTM member Chris Sullivan who asked for more time to gather the information he needs to present a proposal. Sullivan did mention that other committees within the town continue with the virtual meetings but he needs more time to do the research he needs for the committee to consider.

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

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

This item was presented by Peter Hentschel where he added suggestions and comments to each section for discussion.

Comment presented are below:

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 be 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.

Public comment drew attention the role of the arborist in comparison to the warden with regards to tree maintenance and decisions to remove or maintain, safety vs. beauty, town liability, preservation of Notable Trees, and contact with the warden . A fter much discussion regarding procedure, public safety and communication a motion to adjourn was made.

Motion to adjourn by David Wells, Second by Adrian Bonenberger and passed unanimously, with discussion continuing Tuesday, November 29th at 7:30 to further discuss any changes to the current tree warden ordinance, and Community Forest ordinance.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm, to continue November 29th, at 7:30 pm.

Peter Black, Chair