

**BRANFORD GREEN COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
HELD JULY 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**PRESENT:** David Minicozzi, Don Gentile, Pat Sanders, Sue McNamara, Ann Freeman,  
Cynthia Wright, Sue Winkel, Joe Cutrona  
**GUEST:** Susan Wade

Noel Stephens  
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

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1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:32PM
2. **Parliamentary-**
  - a. **Minutes-** Cynthia made a motion that the minutes of all regular and special meetings from October 2022 through May 2024 be approved, Pat seconded, and after discussion the motion was approved unanimously.
  - b. **Members: new and renewals-** Dave established that everyone who needed to renew their membership has done so, and that all Committee members were in compliance. Guest Susan Wade sat in to observe and may apply to become the representative for Baptist Church.
3. **Updates & Old Business:**
  - a. **Correspondence-** Dave said “thank you” letters and certificates will be sent to past Committee members and others in appreciation of their service, both past and present.
  - b. **Status of the Green-** It was reported that the Green bounced back nicely from the Festival. Some felt the Festival Corporation should do a better job protecting plantings and trees (e.g., the new white oak in front of the Academy). Dave will make a call. It was suggested that the suckers on a large tree in Section D facing Main Street be removed. It was felt someone/a Town department needs to take responsibility for care and maintenance of the False Cypress garden.
  - c. **Special Projects status/STEAP, tree tags-** no word yet on a timeline for the STEAP grant or Main Street reconstruction projects. The GIS map is a work in progress. The next stage in the tree tag project is for the Town IT Department to upload content to the website.
  - d. **Follow up on STEAP Grant-** See 3.c. above. In addition there was concern regarding the mention of the plan’s removal of three large trees along main Street. Dave will make a call.
4. **New Business:**
  - a. **Green Use applications-** The Committee was presented with and ok’ed the following: The Society of Nepalese in America will have a *Nepal Day Parade* on July 13, 2024; and Branford Masonic Temple will hold a *Celtic Festival* May 31/June 1, 2025.
  - b. **Reports-** Pat reported the Garden Club will hand baskets near the *Winnifred Judge Garden*, which garden also needs mulching and weeding. *The Mae McCabe Garden* is in the process of being updated. The Garden Club will hold a *Books & Blooms* event at the Blackstone Library on September 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. **Annual Report-** Dave presented the Committee’s proposed Annual Report for 2023-2024. A few amendments were suggested. Pat made a motion to approve the report, with the amendments, Joe seconded the motion and after discussion it was approved unanimously.

- d. **Annual Green Walk-** **Cynthia** announced the Walk will take place on Tuesday September 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM beginning with all of us meeting on Town Hall steps. The following Tuesday September 24<sup>th</sup> is the rain date. **Cynthia** will reach out to **Cameron Pierce** of Davey Tree Co. to make arrangements.
  - e. **Tree Donation and Planting Plan-** we were approached with a potential tree donation in memory of someone we had recently commemorated. It was decided that we already had enough trees donated in that person's name, and that perhaps the donation would be better suited to another part of town. **Dave** will make a call to the donor. We also reminded ourselves of the Levesch Family Tree, and that **Don** and **Joe** were working with one another to get that going with a male tupelo. **Joe** emphasized the need for a more structured planting plan. We hope to get lists of suggested trees from Public Works and/or the Community Forestry Commission.
  - f. **Panaorama of the Green-** **Dave, Don** and **Pat** will visit the donor of the panorama to personally inspect it. **Dave** will set up the meeting.
5. **Other-** **Dave** presented copies of the "Red Plan" and "Blue Plan" of the pollinator garden. He reminded the Committee that we had approved the smaller Red Plan, but that the Town went ahead with a modified version of the Blue Plan without first consulting the Green Committee. **Dave** voiced his opposition to this manner of conducting business and expressed his disappointment at the Town disregarding our Committee. The Committee discussed the butterfly display and our concerns regarding the activities of **Craig "The Butterfly Man."** Some Committee members liked the display, others not so much. **Dave** pointed out the display had not gone through the "Temporary Structure" application process and may, in fact, be on the Green illegally in violation of Town procedures. The Committee as a whole was concerned that the Town would entertain **The Butterfly Man's** petition for a larger display without first consulting the Committee. **Dave** will reach out to the First Selectman to get us on the next agenda for the Board of Selectmen to voice our concerns. **Joe** voiced concerns over the water drainage on Taintor Drive adjacent to the new sycamore trees. He also voiced concern as to whether we had planted the sycamores too close to an existing large tree, thereby emphasizing the need for a more rigorous planting plan. There was also discussion on whether and how to promote use of the back of the Green adjacent to the Cenotaph.
  6. **Adjourn-** **Pat** moved for an adjournment, **Don** seconded and after discussion the motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 PM

*The next Green Committee regular meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 5:30PM at the Community House, room TBA.*

Respectfully submitted,

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David C. Minicozzi, Chairman and Secretary Pro Tem