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BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

Community Forest Commission Monthly Meeting- February

Topic: Community Forest Commission Monthly Meeting

Date and Time: February 20, 2025 5:30 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Location: Joseph Trapasso Community House

Attendees: Abigail Adams, Doreen Larson-Oboyski, Ivy Kim, Shirley McCarthy, Gary Zielinski

Member of the public: Juliana Roy

Meeting convened at 5:41 pm

Approve January 18, 2025 minutes

McCarthy 1st motion, Adams 2nd motion

All approved

Business

1. Main Street Reconstruction

- a. Juliana Roy expressed her concern over the potential removal of existing trees.
- b. Publicly available plans for project were reviewed. Previous recommendations from the CFC that native plants be used are indicated on the plans. A concise list of trees to be removed and trees to be preserved needs to be obtained.
- c. Many of the trees that are involved in the project are the purview of the Green Committee. Kim had emailed their chair, David Minicozzi, who believed that no trees on the Green were to be removed; Zielinski supplied information that he had been asked by the Engineering department about possible tree removals, however. McCarthy will pursue further information with David Minicozzi, and a CFC member may attend the next Green Commission meeting on March 11th.

2. Police Department Trees

- a. Kim received complaints from public regarding the tree removals associated with the project. The remaining two elms will have their root zones encroached upon, though the Davey arborist consulting on the project is trying to soften the impact. McCarthy will consult with Greg Ames, on the Public Building Commission, about who might be able to change plans to preserve more root zone.

3. Educational materials on protecting root zones during construction

- a. Davey arborist Megan Joseph supplied a concise one-page guide that may be distributed at CFC events.

4. Spring Tree Giveaway

- a. Materials to be distributed, in addition to trees and instructions, will include mulching flyer and root zone protection guide.
- b. The Conservation and Environment Commission will fund
- c. Two dates will be chosen for distribution—trees may be available any time between the second week of April and the second week of May, and may only be held for about two weeks after pickup.
- d. Publicity, including an advance sign-up email, will be run in Branford Patch, the Sound, the Blackstone, etc.

- e. Roy volunteered to help with tree distribution.

5. Development

- a. McCarthy reported on status of potential 6.3 ordinance
- b. Kim reports that the Conservation and Environment Commission has a paid clerk, Michelle Martin, who pulls a list of relevant P&Z proposals for the CEC to review. Kim will apply to the CEC for further information on the process.

6. Regional Tree Group Communications

- a. McCarthy reports that the group has been active in supporting the neonicotinoid and rodenticide bills and supporting the reappointment of Marissa Gillett of PURA.

7. DOT trimming map

- a. Zielinski states that the map will be available on the Public Works website. Kim suggested that a printed copy be posted to the Town Hall bulletin board. McCarthy suggested that Public Works might also do a press release to the Sound.

8. Publicity

- a. Kim suggests a special meeting be arranged to discuss criteria for the Eco-friendly Landscaping Award. Selected recipient did not respond to inquiry about possible invasives plantings.

9. Proposed meeting with Tyler Bowne, Sustainability Office

- a. Kim suggested arranging a followup meeting regarding Open Space Management materials forwarded at the request of the First Selectman.
- b. Adams previously met with Bowne, discussing town staff time for grants applications and public education projects.

10. Other

- a. Zielinski reports 16 total trees overwintered in the Public Works yard plus 32 trees ordered for spring. In addition to planting the trees in the sites agreed upon last fall (excepting the Sycamore at the Stony Creek museum, since they are planning construction), he is looking for suggestions for spring planting, likely to begin in March. Kim suggested looking for spaces in the Jefferson Woods neighborhood. Zielinski reported that new sidewalks would be going in in the area (Florence road), and he has suggested to Engineering that the space between road and sidewalk be large enough to plant trees in.
- b. Kim will write to Armory suggesting that the Army request permission from DOT to plant a tree on Montowese side.
- c. Adams reports large ornamental burning bush planting at Foote Memorial Park, and will report it to Parks and Recreation.

Adams 1st motion to adjourn, Larson-Oboyski 2nd motion, meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm