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BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

**Community Forest Commission  
Meeting Minutes 3/20/2025**

**Topic:** Community Forest Commission

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

**Location:** Joseph Trapasso Community House

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

**Meeting convened at 5:36 pm**

**Approve February 2025 minutes**

McCarthy 1<sup>st</sup> motion, Adams 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

All approved minutes

**Business**

**1. FY 2024/2025 tree planting requests**

Trees bought in fall 2024 are being planted this spring with trees purchased this year- total of 54 trees

Worksheet of tree plantings with location and contact information distributed to commissioners by Zielinski

Trees being planted: red maples, sycamores, sweet gums (columnar cultivar), black gums, Princeton elms, American lindens

**2. Outreach**

**a. Arbor Day Celebration**

Discussed tentative date and location for Arbor Day celebration

Possibility of having ceremony at Foote Memorial Park on 4/25/2025 at 9:30 am.

Discussed replacing 3 dead trees with new trees.

Discussed issue of caring for trees in that location

Commission agrees unanimously to hold celebration at Foote Memorial Park

Adams will reach out to Indian Neck School about allowing children to participate in ceremony

Zielinski will reach out to Pam Johnson about press release

**b. Spring Tree Giveaway**

Discussed holding tree distribution at Blackstone Memorial Library on 4/26/2025 or 5/17/25. Date dependent on tree availability

Hally volunteered to assist with drafting press release. McCarthy offered to review press release.

- c. Kim spoke with Tyler Bowne, Compliance and Sustainability Manager. He hopes to condense the information in the Collection Information Flyer so that 1/2 half page is reserved for commission announcements

### **3. Regional tree commissions communications**

A Letter is being written to the Council on Environmental Quality regarding protecting trees during development and the impact on public health infrastructure. The council is involved in legislation that protects wildlife and its habitat

Keith Ainsworth, an environmental attorney, is chairman

### **4. Main Street Reconstruction**

Zielinski will speak to First Selectman regarding revision of tree planting plans for Main Street reconstruction to include native trees recommended by CFC

19/45 new trees will be flowering cherry trees, 60 trees to be removed

### **Other business:**

Discussed changing time for CFC meeting

Adams inquired about the existence of tree pruning guidelines in Branford

Discussed Emergency Operations System in Branford

Adams reported on possible meeting with Dale Izzo regarding management of Tree of Heaven at Foote Memorial Park

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm

McCarthy 1<sup>st</sup> motion, Larson-Oboyski 2<sup>nd</sup> motion