

**CITY OF NORWALK
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Norwalk City Hall
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**Minutes
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
November 22, 2016**

Attendance: Richard Whitehead, Chairman
Gay Mac Leod, Vice Chairperson
Andrew Strauss
Peter Viteretto

Staff: Paul Sotnik, Deputy Tree Warden
Dilene Byrd, Secretary

Absent: Rob Frazier

Neighborhood Liaisons: Laurie Mirra

Guest: Ernie Grevers

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Whitehead called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF OCTOBER 25, 2016**

**** MS. MAC LEOD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. MAC LEOD MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO TAKE THE AGENDA
OUT OF ORDER.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. REPORT - INCIDENTS OF ILLEGAL CUTTING

Mr. Sotnik said Mr. Magnotta of 2 Splitrock Road had city trees pruned without a permit after having been informed once in writing by Mr. Torre, and twice verbally by Mr. Torre and Mr. Sotnik, not to touch the trees. He said that the police were contacted and a \$250.00 fine has been issued. Ms. Macleod asked how many trees were pruned. Mr. Sotnik said there were numerous trees but that two were city trees, and that if the trees die he will be responsible for replacing them at his cost.

4. DISCUSSION - DECEMBER 27, 2016 MEETING

**** MR. WHITEHEAD MOVED TO CANCEL THE DECEMBER 27, 2016 MEETING
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. UPDATE - 81 WILLIAM STREET - TREE REMOVALS

Mr. Sotnik provided an update and said that the trees have been removed, and that no injunction was ever received from Superior Court to stop the removals.

6. UPDATE - MEETING WITH RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

Mr. Whitehead said that he, Mr. Strauss and Mr. Sotnik met with Mr. Mocciae on November 9, 2016, and that the main objective was to discuss how the Tree Advisory Committee could work with the Recreation & Parks Department on Tree Planting programs, because there are so many overlapping programs between the Department of Public Works and the Recreation & Parks Department, and that he was receptive to that idea. He said that he also requested that either Mr. Mocciae or Mr. Hughes attend some of the Tree Advisory Committee meetings, especially when the spring and fall plantings will be discussed so that there is no overlap in the programs. Mr. Sotnik said that overall it was a cordial meeting and that Mr. Mocciae did commit to planting three trees in the Rosa Parks Arboretum in the Spring 2017.

7. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

- a. East Avenue
Mr. Sotnik said that Mr. Frazier will be contacting the Community Baptist Church at 105 East Avenue regarding a Spring 2017 planting.

- b. Shorefront Park
Mr. Strauss said that he does not believe there are any plantings planned for the Spring 2017, but that he will verify this with Ms. LeCoz and report back to the committee.
- c. Calf Pasture Beach Road
Mr. Whitehead said the trees have been planted at the fourteen (14) locations that were staked, and that they have filled all the gaps on the Taylor Farm side of the road. He said that there are still some gaps on the other side of street which they opted not to address this fall, but that they will be done as potential Spring 2017 plantings. He said that they will require the property owners to be contacted in advance of the planting orders.

Ms. Macleod asked who is responsible for maintaining and watering the trees during the drought. Mr. Sotnik said that will be discussed under item eight of the agenda.
- d. Main Avenue
No discussion.
- e. Marvin Beach
Mr. Sotnik said that several potential plantings remain for the Spring 2017.
- f. Village Creek
Mr. Viteretto presented a proposed preliminary plan for Dock Road at the Woodward Avenue intersection along with Ms. Mirra and Ms. Grevers. There was a discussion that ensued and it was decided that the plan is to be finalized by Mr. Viteretto and presented by the Village Creek Board at the January 24, 2017 meeting so that the trees can be ordered. Mr. Sotnik said that he will also present the plan to Recreation and Parks, and suggested that the Tree Advisory Committee fund the five trees at the entry to the park.

8. UPDATE - TREE MAINTENANCE BY SECTION OF CITY

Mr. Sotnik updated the Committee on the proposed supplemental watering schedule for newly planted trees that was provided by Mr. Norman of Almstead Tree on October 31, 2016. He said that the dates may be altered or canceled due to the amount of natural precipitation and soil conditions, and that Mr. Norman will also be scouting the trees that are under warranty prior to watering them to establish if watering is needed, and that he will be reporting to him which trees that they have watered.

9. INFORMATION

- a. Tree City USA Bulletin 2016 Annual Report
Mr. Sotnik distributed.

- b. Arbor Day, November/December 2016
Mr. Sotnik distributed.

10. PLANNING FOR FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS/LECTURES

Mr. Whitehead said that he will be sending Ms Macleod information about the Norwalk Tree Alliance programs concerning the value of trees and structural pruning so that she can begin to develop a schedule of programs. He said that the one location they are looking at is the Rosa Parks Arboretum, and that it will be discussed at the next Tree Alliance meeting, and that Mr. Frazier will be the lead presenter at that meeting for the 2017 educational programs. He said that one of the topics they will be looking into is the Developmental Structural Pruning for young trees. He also suggested that in lieu of the Tree Festival recruiting some of the local tree companies to donate their time to perform some structural pruning for the original batch of trees that were planted at the Arboretum. Ms. Macleod said that the next thing to do will be to promote the lectures. Mr. Sotnik suggested doing that through the new Tree Alliance website and also said that there is an e-mail list of contacts of people who attended the last two Tree Festivals. Ms. Macleod suggested making a schedule even if it is a tentative one.

11. REPORT - STRATEGIC TREE CANOPY ENHANCEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Viteretto said that he would continue to work on updating the plan.

- a. Update - Letter to Zoning Commission Chairman from Committee
Mr. Sotnik said that he will follow up with Mr. Kleppin and Mr. Wrinn on the status of the invitation.

12. REPORT - NTA ACTIVATES AND RECRUITING

Mr. Strauss and Mr. Whitehead provided an update on the November 17, 2016, board meeting including activities at the Tree Farm, the new Web Site, the Liability and Directors Insurance and the cleanup of 215 East Avenue. He said they also discussed the potential of finding a new facility.

- a. Rosa Parks Arboretum- Signage
Mr. Strauss provided updates on the programs being pursued by Ms. LeCoz for the Rosa Parks Arboretum such as the replacement signage, security considerations and the replacement of the three (3) dead trees that Mr. Sotnik has discussed with Mr. Moccia of the Recreation & Parks Department.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Sotnik said that Mr. Torre has posted seven additional trees for removal as part of the Great Lawn and Fountain Garden Capital Improvement Project at Oak Hills Park. He said that as part of the project, there are funds for replacement trees on the ones to be replaced.

14. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. VITERETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.