



**CITY OF NORWALK
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Norwalk City Hall
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**Minutes
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
November 27, 2018**

Attendance: Richard Whitehead, Chairman
Andrew Strauss
Peter Viteretto
Erica Kipp

Absent: Mary-Pat Cottrell

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

Liaisons: Laurie Mirra, Village Creek Board

Guests: Diane Lauricella

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Whitehead called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

2. ANNUAL UPDATE - OAK HILLS AUTHORITY

There was no discussion.

**3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF
OCTOBER 3, 2018 SPECIAL MEETING.**

**** MR. VITERETTO MOVED TO TABLE THE MINUTES.
** MR. STRAUSS SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 23, 2018.

**** MR. STRAUSS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

**** MR. VITERETTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. REPORT - INCIDENTS OF ILLEGAL CUTTING

Mr. Sotnik had no new illegal cuttings to report.

6. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

Mr. Sotnik circulated the updated list that Mr. Norman had provided with all the trees that have been planted within the warranty period over the last two years. He said that all of the Fall 2018 plantings have also been completed.

a. East Avenue

Mr. Sotnik said that two trees have been planted.

b. Main Avenue

Mr. Viteretto said that Main Avenue is a larger project that needs to be approached differently and suggested that it be discussed under new business. He pointed out that the new gas station that had just opened has no trees and that is a Planning & Zoning issue, and there needs to be a strategy where new developments are required to plant trees because they help the City treescape. He said the same problem is happening on Connecticut Avenue with new developments. Mr. Sotnik suggested scheduling a meeting with Mr. Kleppin before the POCD is finalized. Ms. Lauricella suggested that there be a section just for trees on the application form from Planning & Zoning which would help to create a common practice. Mr. Whitehead said that he will schedule a meeting with Mr. Kleppin in the Spring 2019.

c. Marvin Beach

Mr. Sotnik said that three replacement trees have been planted.

d. West Avenue

Mr. Sotnik said that the property owners will need to be approached again because at this point they are not interested in having trees planted, but even if they do agree, the funding may not be available in the current budget.

e. Richards Avenue

Mr. Sotnik said that twelve (12) trees will be planted in the Spring 2019. Mr. Whitehead asked if the pricing will be the same as the Fall 2018 planting. Mr. Sotnik said "yes."

Ms. Kipp joined the meeting at 6:10 P.M.

- f. Wilton Avenue
Mr. Whitehead said that there are fifty-eight (58) potential planting locations. Mr. Sotnik asked Mr. Whitehead if he can e-mail him a species breakdown so that he can have a cost estimate prepared for the Capital Budget request.
- g. Park Street
Mr. Whitehead said there are five (5) potential planning locations. Mr. Sotnik said that for funding reasons, this project would have to be done as a Fall 2019 planting and he requested that Mr. Whitehead also provide him with a species selection.
- h. Berkley Street
Mr. Sotnik said that one (1) Elm Tree has been planted.
- i. Broad Street
Mr. Whitehead said that three replacement London Planetrees have been planted and that they look good.
- j. Dr. Martin Luther King Drive
Mr. Whitehead suggested that London Planetrees will be planted. Mr. Sotnik asked how many planting locations there are. Mr. Whitehead said nine (9). He said that some clearing work may be required from DPW prior to the planting. Mr. Sotnik said that he will have the work scheduled just prior to the planting.

Ms. Mirra said there are also potential planting locations on Woodward Avenue. Mr. Sotnik requested that a quantity and species list be sent to him. Ms. Mirra said that she has also been working with the Norwalk Rivershed Association for possible grant opportunities and they also have a commitment from Factset and REI for funding for trees inside the park on Woodward Avenue.

7. INFORMATION:

- a. Arbor Day, November/December 2018.
Mr. Sotnik distributed.
- b. Tree City USA Bulletin - 2018 Annual Report.
Mr. Sotnik distributed.

8. REPORT - MAKING NCC A TREE CAMPUS USA

Ms. Kipp said in order to be considered a Tree Campus there are five standards that have to be met which is similar to the Tree City USA requirements. She said at this point a committee needs to be established which will hopefully include some Tree

Advisory Committee members, as well as some people from the College. She said the application is due December 31, 2018, every year, but she will not be applying this December and her goal for the next year is to work on the five standards so she can apply for Tree Campus USA next year. She said there is only one other college in the state of Connecticut that is a Tree Campus. Mr. Whitehead volunteered to be on the committee.

9. REPORT - INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE GRANTS

Ms. Kipp said that she has found 10 possible grant opportunities and highlighted the specifics of the grants. She said that they are all due between April and September of 2019, and are all community or volunteer driven. Mr. Strauss suggested applying for a grant for the Norwalk Riverwalk. Mr. Viteretto also suggested applying for a grant for Union Cemetery. There was further discussion ensued and Mr. Viteretto suggested that Louise Washer from the Pollinator Pathway attend the February to discuss possible opportunities for funding for the Norwalk Riverwalk.

10. PLANNING FOR FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM EVENTS/LECTURES

There was discussion regarding future educational program events and Ms. Kipp asked if something can be done with NCC. Mr. Whitehead suggested incorporating an Earth Day program along with planting trees on the East Campus with students similar to what was done for the tree planting at Roodner Court. Ms. Mirra also suggested getting neighborhood associations involved in the program events.

11. REPORT - NTA ACTIVITIES

- a. 2018 NTA Board Member Election Results.
Mr. Strauss said that the elections were held and that everyone was reelected and that the last meeting for 2018 will be held on Thursday, November 29, 2018. He said that they are currently working on the tree school and fundraising, and that Ms. Kipp had given him a grant application for a Kids Garden, which he has started.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Viteretto discussed planting opportunities at Union Park Cemetery and said that it is in poor condition and that it has very old trees. He said that a lot of clearing has been done over time, but there is still a lot of work to be done. Ms. Kipp said that she will research any available grant opportunities, but it will be difficult because when a grant is offered, they typically like to see that the area is maintained.

13. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. VITERETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** MR. STRAUSS SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dilene Byrd