



**CITY OF NORWALK  
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Norwalk City Hall  
125 East Avenue, PO Box 5125  
Room 225  
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**Minutes  
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
August 27, 2019**

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

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

Liaisons: Laurie Mirra, Village Creek

Others: Fran Hoyt  
Diane CeCe

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Whitehead called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

**2. REPORT - 2019 LETTER OF RECOGNITION FROM SENATOR  
BLUMENTHAL**

Mr. Sotnik said they have received a letter of recognition from Senator Blumenthal for being designated as a Tree City USA again in 2018. Mr. Whitehead said this is the second letter of recognition they have received from Senator Blumenthal.

**3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
JULY 23, 2019**

**\*\* MR. STRAUSS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.  
\*\* MR. VITERETTO SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Sotnik introduced Ms. Hoyt and said that she is from the Marvin Beach Association. Ms. Hoyt said that they are looking for a replacement for Ms. And Mr. Jinishin for a tree liaison for their community and she requested a copy of the guidebook to stimulate some interest in their community.

Ms. Cece stated that she is proud to say the City's first ever Tree Liaison of the year Nick Overall came out of East Norwalk Neighborhood Association (ENNA). She said there was a concern raised at their monthly meeting last week with hurricane and snow season approaching that the City be proactive with trees that are on City property, educate private property owners in terms of health and maintenance of trees and to also work in collaboration with the utility companies to be sure that proper trimming is being done.

Ms. Cece said the ENNA has a new initiative that they would like to start in East Norwalk for planting additional trees to add and additional tree canopy and distributed a draft initiative policy of "Tree Spot Spotting." She provided an overview of the policy and said when someone in East Norwalk spots a location that they think is going to be right for tree canopy restoration, they would e-mail the request to the general e-mail box for ENNA so that a list can be compiled and given to the City. Mr. Viteretto suggested that a list of criteria be sent to them. She said that tree canopy needs to be highlighted in the POCD for the Capital funding. She said that East Norwalk is going through a TOD study and there will be a lot of development and often the zoning regulations are modified based on public improvement and public realm and one of their goals is that a component of that should be trees.

#### **4. REPORT - 2019 EVERSOURCE TREE TRIMMING PERMIT**

Mr. Sotnik said that they had received a request from Eversource to add additional streets to the 2019 Tree Trimming permit. He provided an overview of the additional streets and said that they have all had three power outages within a period of three months.

#### **5. REPORT - INCIDENTS OF ILLEGAL CUTTING**

Mr. Sotnik said that two trees were planted at 92 East Avenue and the owner of Collins Funeral Home has removed them because they were blocking the signage. He said that he and Mr. Torre are in the process of talking with the property owner regarding restitution. Mr. Viteretto asked if they had signed a Ownership agreement. Mr. Sotnik said "Yes" they did. Ms. Kipp said that there needs to be some sort of penalty assessed otherwise signing the agreement is useless. Mr. Sotnik said there will be a penalty and staff is working with the Corporation Councils Office to determine how assertive they can be with the restitution requirements.

Mr. Sotnik said there was an illegal cutting on Little Fox Lane and staff is in the process of investigating.

Mr. Sotnik said there was an illegal cutting on Keeler Avenue and at 230 Silvermine Avenue they are also being investigated.

Ms. Kipp asked the status of a request she had forwarded to the Committee regarding a potentially hazardous tree corner of Riverside Avenue and Hill Street. Mr. Sotnik said that Mr. Montgomery will determine the property lines or send it to engineering for verification.

## **6. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM**

### **a. New Planting Locations for Fall 2019**

Mr. Whitehead said there are nine (9) locations for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, but some will require some maintenance work to be done prior to the planting.

Mr. Strauss said that one replacement tree is needed on 30 Cavary Road. He asked if tree guards are included in the contract. Mr. Whitehead said "Yes" for the root collar guards but not for the trunk guards.

Ms. Mirra said there is a huge flooding problem on Woodard Avenue in the area of the WB Mason property. Mr. Strauss asked if this is an industrial area. Ms. Mirra said "Yes." Mr. Strauss requested asking for a contribution from the industries. Mr. Strauss said he would write a letter from the Norwalk Tree Alliance requesting a contribution for the trees. He also stated that in his opinion, the City should not just plant on the City Right-of-Way using City funds when there is a commercial business that owns the abutting property. He asked how many trees would be needed. Mr. Whitehead said at least twelve (12).

Ms. Cossuto said that she and Mr. Strauss went to Scribner Avenue for possible planting locations last week, but did not receive any positive responses as of yet, but will have five (5) planting locations for a Fall planting.

Mr. Viteretto said there are still gaps on Calf Pasture Beach Road that need trees.

Mr. Whitehead said a Redmond American Linden tree is need as a replacement tree on Washington Street.

Ms. Whitehead said that he has spoken with Louise Washer and he will be meeting with her regarding planting locations at Union Park. Mr. Viteretto suggested contacting the First Taxing District because they own the park.

Mr. Viteretto suggested replacing the trees in front of the Post Office on Belden Avenue as well as replacing the Bradford Pear Trees on Wall Street and West

Avenue. He said that he will establish a planting list of five (5) locations for a Fall 2019 planting.

Ms. Kipp said she will be submitting a planting list of five (5) locations for a Fall 2019 planting.

Mr. Sotnik said that he would like to have thirty (30) trees planted in the Fall and requested that the Committee e-mail a list of planting locations by September 16, 2019, so that he can place the order and begin staking the locations. Mr. Strauss asked that the list include the address and also have the name of the TAC member or Tree Liaison who contacted the homeowner and received their authorization.

## **7. UPDATE – TREE MAINTENANCE BY SECTION OF CITY**

Mr. Sotnik provided an overview of the tree maintenance by section of the City and distributed the list that was provided by Mr. Norman of Almstead Tree. He also said that he had spoken with Dave Shockley and was able to get a contract price from Meticulous Landscaping of \$1,200 to water the trees on Washington Street for eight weeks during the summer.

## **8. INFORMATION:**

- a. Tree City USA Bulletin, July/August 2019.  
Mr. Sotnik distributed.
- b. CPTA - Centennial Arborist Law.  
Mr. Sotnik distributed and said that the CPTA has again offered to give Norwalk a White Oak Tree and a plaque, but that someone will need to volunteer to find a location and plant it. He said that he and Mr. Torre suggested a possible planting location at Matthews Park.

## **9. D.P.W. OPEN HOUSE - OCTOBER 5, 2019**

Mr. Sotnik said that the D.P.W. Open house will be held on October 5, 2019 from 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. at the Public Works Operations Center. Ms. Kipp said she can have students from Norwalk Community College volunteer at the event if needed.

## **10. UPDATE - 2020 ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION LOCATION**

Mr. Sotnik said that he has made contact with the Principal of Cranbury School and she will be getting back to him.

### **11. UPDATE - KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL GRANT - 50 WASHINGTON STREET**

Ms. Kipp provided an update on the Keep America Beautiful grant and the possibilities of Fall plantings related to the grant. She asked how the progress in going with the project at 50 Washington Street and when will they be ready for the trees to be planted. Mr. Sotnik said at their next progress meeting, they will be discussing the coordination, but they will be ready for the trees to be planted in September. Ms. Kipp requested that Mr. Rains be invited to attend the meeting. She said that she will also attend the meeting if her schedules allows. She also requested a planting date as soon as possible because she will be giving her students extra credit for volunteering so she wants to give them ample time to arrange their schedule.

### **12. UPDATE - SEPTEMBER MEETING - TREE CAMPUS USA AT NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Ms. Kipp said that she will send an e-mail regarding the Tree Campus meeting and she is looking to have one scheduled towards the end of September. Mr. Strauss said the Tree Alliance meeting will be held on September 26, 2019.

### **13. PLANNING FOR FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM EVENTS/LECTURES**

Mr. Whitehead said it was decided to schedule another tree pruning session for the DPW crews and that Mr. Torre had requested some dates and he had given him the four next Wednesdays to choose from. He said they will be working on Washington, Wall and/or Raymond and Day Streets. Ms. Kipp said in October she is doing a program at the learning Center for tree plantings at Roodner Court and asked if that would fall under this category. Mr. Whitehead said "Yes." She also said that she will start looking for another grant in January, 2020.

### **14. REPORT - NTA ACTIVITIES**

#### **a. Update - Fall Planning:**

##### **i. Tree School 2019-2020.**

Mr. Strauss said the tree school is going very well and in addition to Columbus Magnet the new Principal at Brookside has agreed to participate in

the program so there will be 100 students. He said that Brookside also had a summer school.

ii. Fodor Farm Outdoor Classroom Concept Plan.

Mr. Strauss stated that he has done the plan for the outdoor classroom with Mr. Broadbent and he is putting together an executive brief. He requested that Mr. Sotnik schedule a meeting with Mr. Carr, Mr. Roberts and Mr. Hughes at Fodor Farm to discuss the plan.

iii. Fall Open House Status.

Mr. Strauss said that they have decided to hold the Open House in conjunction with the Wine Festival. He said that one of the requirements for the lease at Fodor Farm with the City is that they host a fundraising event once a year to benefit Fodor Farm so this will fulfill that requirement, and any funds they receive will go to the Tree School.

Ms. Strauss said that the elections will be held at the end of October and that Allan Broadbent has agreed to be the next President of the Norwalk Tree Alliance.

Mr. Strauss said that Ms. Simmons had contacted Mr. Ignieri and he is interested in hearing a presentation about a Grant in December.

## **15. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business discussed.

## **16. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. STRAUSS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* MS. KIPP SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd