



## TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 23, 2021

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Dilene Byrd at [dbyrd@norwalkct.org](mailto:dbyrd@norwalkct.org) to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Attendance: Richard Whitehead, Vice Chair

Absent: Peter Viteretto  
Cindy Cossuto  
Professor Erica Kipp  
Sonja Oliver

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

Others: Jeff Scherr, President, Norwalk Tree Alliance  
Diane Lauricella

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Whitehead called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**2. PUBLIC INPUT - GUESTS AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS MAY SPEAK TO ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA. (COMMENTS SHALL BE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN THREE (3) MINUTES PER SPEAKER.)**

Ms. Lauricella thanked everyone on the Tree Advisory Committee, and said she is impressed with all the hard work of the Committee, especially related to the newly revised tree ordinance.

**3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 26, 2021**

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

**4. UPDATE - CAPITAL TREE PLANTING PROGRAM - FALL 2021 PLANTING LIST**

Planting Locations	Number of Trees	Planted/Ordered
Aiken Street	26	Planted
15 Madison Street	19	Planted
23 Calvin Murphy Drive	2	Planted
466 Flax Hill Road	4	Planted

3 Driftwood Lane	1	Planted
Merrill Road	13	Planted
8 Raymond Terrace	2	Planted
133 Murray Street	2	Planted
31 Cannon Street	4	Ordered – 2 Planted
32 Kossuth Street	1	Ordered
21 First Street - Replacement	1	Planted
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75</b>	Planted 72 of 75 ordered to date, 3 on order.

**5. Update – Capital Tree Planting Budget F.Y. Remaining Balance**

Mr. Sotnik provided an update on the Capital Tree Planting program and budget and said that trees have been added that were planted, but the total has not changed from last month and we will still be planting 75 trees, but have now planted 72 of the 75 trees and three of the trees are still on order. Mr. Whitehead suggested that the three remaining trees wait until the Spring 2022 to be planted unless Almstead Tree is comfortable planting in the winter and has stock that is readily available.

**6. PROMOTION OF TREE PLANTING PROGRAM**

Mr. Sotnik reported and said he has spoken with Mr. Morgan, and he had said when the plantings are completed for this season, he will put a story together and a press release will be sent out related to the final tally of what was planted for the Fall season.

**7. UPDATE - ALMSTEAD TREE WATERING/MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE**

Mr. Sotnik presented the updated watering schedule and said under the new contract Almstead Tree is responsible for providing an update from April through November so this is the last update we will receive until the Spring 2022, and that he has requested that the gator bags be removed from the trees. He said that he received a call from Ms. Cozzarin regarding the trees at Oak Hills because the deer are starting to rub against the trees and asked the Committee if they had any suggestions. Mr. Viteretto said that wire fencing will need to be installed or some sort of a collar for the trees. Mr. Whitehead asked if Oak Hills could help to pay for the fencing since they were the

recipients of the trees. Mr. Sotnik said he will ask and will also see if DPW operations can install them.

## **8. TREE CITY USA RECERTIFICATION APPLICATION PREPARATION**

Mr. Sotnik said the application is due on January 13, 2022, and said if anyone had anything they would like to include to please send it to him.

## **9. REPORT - NTA ACTIVITIES**

Update:

- i. 2021 NTA Board Member Election Results.  
Mr. Scherr introduced himself and said that he is the newly elected President of the Norwalk Tree Alliance, and that Anna Thurston was elected Vice President, Jennifer Wilcox as Clerk and Ashley Wutz will continue as Treasurer. He said that we are excited for the new leadership and are looking forward to the new year. He said another new development is that we recently hired a part-time Non-Profit Coordinator and it was a big step forward and she will be responsible for helping to organize and come up with strategic fundraising goals and ways to execute those goals, so we are excited about this new development.
- ii. NTA Friend-Raiser  
Mr. Scherr said they had recently hosted a successful "Friend-Raiser" and Mr. Sotnik and Mr. Torre along with 30 other people had attended and it was a huge success and had raised approximately \$2,800. He said it was hosted and organized by NTA board members and they are excited to expand on it to make people more aware of the organization and one of the attendees at the event said they will host an event in the future.

Mr. Scherr said the most recent tree planting that was done was a Sugar Maple that was planted at Ponus Ridge Middle School and they are potentially looking to plant more trees there, and will be developing an event schedule for 2022.

Mr. Whitehead congratulated Mr. Scherr on his election and said the Tree Advisory Committee is looking forward to updates as the year progresses.

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Whitehead said that Professor Kipp has been doing a spectacular job on running our meetings.

Mr. Viteretto asked for a status update on the trees at the Maritime Aquarium. Mr. Sotnik said he will need to check with Mr. Torre and report back to the Committee. Mr. Viteretto suggested that it be kept on the agenda.

Mr. Viteretto asked for an update on the plantings on East Avenue. Mr. Sotnik said that Mr. and Mrs. Craighead have been doing a great job on the checking into potential planting locations and have been coordinating with Mr. Viteretto and himself. He said they have been putting a list together and contacting various property owners to see who would like to have trees planted and have a potential of 31 tree plantings and TMP said they will sponsor 11 the trees that are to be planted in the snow shelf. Some may be planted this Fall if possible and the remaining will be carried over for planting in the Spring 2022. Mr. Viteretto suggested that certain criteria regarding planting in a snow shelf should be documented. Mr. Sotnik agreed that it should be documented for the tree liaisons and he has personally been doing some of the inspections on the locations to be sure we are not planting trees in areas where they will die or cause sidewalk issues etc.

Ms. Cossuto joined to meeting at 6:20 P.M.

Mr. Viteretto said that he did go to Oak Hill Park, and he has a conceptual planting restoration plan, but he has not yet had a chance to document it. Mr. Sotnik said that he walked the site with Ms. Cozzarin and once the plan is documented he will review it with her one more time before presenting it to Eversource for a Spring 2022 planting.

Mr. Viteretto said the Pinus flexilis trees are very salt tolerant trees and don't burn with the salt spray and suggested they be thought about for planting in the areas that are close to the waterfront.

Mr. Whitehead encouraged the Committee members to begin looking for planting locations and/or projects for Spring and Fall 2022 plantings. Mr. Sotnik said there are approximately 50 trees that we will have requests for planting in the Spring and there is a remaining budget of approximately \$21,000, so there will not be enough money for all the planting locations that we have requests for and that is why we are asking for additional funding as of July 1, 2022. Mr. Viteretto said planned areas for Capital Improvements projects on the streets would also be a target area for new trees. Mr. Sotnik said he will distribute the list once the final list is completed for the paving and sidewalk locations.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. WHITEHEAD MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd