



## TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

February 22, 2022

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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: Professor Erica Kipp, Chair  
Peter Viteretto  
Cindy Cossuto  
Sonja Oliver

Staff: Paul Sotnik, Deputy Tree Warden

Chris Torre, Tree Warden  
Dilene Byrd, Secretary

Others: Jeff Scherr, President, Norwalk Tree Alliance

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Professor Kipp called the meeting to order at 6:03 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.)**

There were no public comments this evening.

### **3. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF JANUARY 25, 2022.**

**\*\* PROFESSOR KIPP MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* MS. OLIVER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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

### **4. UPDATE - CAPITAL TREE PLANTING PROGRAM**

#### **a. List of Planting Locations for Spring 2022**

Mr. Sotnik reported and said there have been 31 requests for trees for Spring 2022 plantings. Professor Kipp said there have been approximately 18 - 20 additional tree planting requests for Spring plantings since last month. Mr. Viteretto asked if there has been an influx of requests based on the recent article in The Norwalk Hour. Professor Kipp said "Yes." Mr. Viteretto said while the article was great for outreach, the Committee needs to be cognizant of what they can afford to do and of the areas that would gain the most from plantings.

### **5. UPDATE - OAK HILLS PARK PLANTING RESTORATION PLAN**

Mr. Viteretto presented the planting restoration plan and said not much has not changed since it was presented at the last meeting, but he had worked with Ms. Cozzarin and took Mr. Scherr's comments into account and solidified the plant and shrub materials list. He said they do not require any herbicides or pesticides for maintenance care which is part of the objectives and concerns that were raised by the Oak Hills Nature

Conservancy. He also added a small amount of understory ferns to the plan. He said it is a naturalistic planting and uses materials that are fairly native and durable. He said that Mr. Sotnik will now begin to put some numbers together to begin the negotiation process with Eversource. He said based on an email from Ms. Cozzarin, an introduction of lower herbaceous materials can be added down the road when there is a volunteer group that can sustain that. Professor Kipp thanked Mr. Viteretto for all of his time and effort spent on the planting restoration plan. Mr. Sotnik said if the Committee approves the planting plan, he will begin negotiations with Eversource. The Committee members agreed that he should move forward with the negotiations.

<b>Oak Hill Park Entrance Drive</b>					
<b>Norwalk Tree Advisory Committee</b>					
<b>February 22, 2022</b>					
<b>Plant Schedule</b>					
<b>Deciduous Trees</b>					
<i>Key</i>	<i>Qty</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Ns	3	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Blackgum	2.5-3.0 Cal.	B&B Full
Qa	2	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp White oak	2.5-3.0 Cal.	B&B Full
Ta	2	<i>Tillia americana</i> "Redmond"	Redmond Linden	2.5-3.0 Cal.	B&B Full
Cra	3	<i>Cornus Florida</i> "Allegheny Spring"	Allegheny Spring Dogwood	2.5-3.0 Cal.	B&B Full
Mc	3	<i>Malus coronaria</i>	American Crabapple	2-2.5" Cal.	15 gal. Cont.
<b>Evergreen Trees</b>					
Pf	3	<i>Pinus flexilis</i>	Limber Pine	7-8' Ht	B&B Full
lo	0	( <i>Alternate</i> ) <i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly	7-8' Ht	B&B/ Full
<b>Shrubs /Ground Covers</b>					
Am	35	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> (UCONNAM165")	Cohokeberry - Low Mound	24-30" spd	3 gal cont
Cam	25	<i>Ceanothu americanus</i>	New Jersey Tea	24-30" spd	3 gal cont
Cal	20	<i>Clethra alternifolia</i> (white flower)	Summersweet	24-30" ht	3 gal Cont
Cms	4	<i>Cornus mas</i>	Corneliancherry Dogwood	5-6' ht.	Container
Hmv	8	<i>Hamamllis vernalis</i>	Vernal Wichhazel	36-42" ht'	Container
Dya	120	<i>dryopteris erythrosora</i>	Autum fern	2.5 inch pots	n/a
Ply	80	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas fern	2.5 inch pots	n/a

## **6. UPDATE - GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Professor Kipp said last week she had submitted a Letter of Intent as step one, and if accepted will then be invited to apply for a NEEF grant. She also said there is a grant that is due in March through the CT DEEP for a maximum of \$10,000, but that it is a 50% matching grant. She stated that there is a third grant that she is applying for which is a Small Project grant and it is also from the CT DEEP and is for \$2,000 maximum and is geared towards a community activity involvement event.

## **7. UPDATE - TREE CITY USA GROWTH AWARD RECERTIFICATION APPLICATION**

Mr. Sotnik provided an update and said that he has been officially notified that the City has been awarded the Growth Award for 2021 by the Arbor Day Foundation. Professor Kipp asked how many years in a row has the City has received this award. Mr. Sotnik said sixteen (16) years.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Scherr provided an update on the Norwalk Tree Alliance and said they have been moving forward with a grant partnering with The Norwalk Land Trust and Norwalk River Valley Trail and they received \$1,000 for education materials and tree planting and are aiming to do three plantings that will be coordinated with the nature hikes. He said that Mr. Yeosock also applied for a grant through the CT DEEP Urban Forest Council that is for up to \$37,000. Professor Kipp requested that when the dates for the tree plantings are determined they be shared with her because she gives extra credit to her students that participate.

Mr. Scherr said that tomorrow is Fairfield County Giving Day, and the Norwalk Tree Alliance will be a part of that event.

Mr. Viteretto said a few weeks ago he shared a letter that was sent to Planning & Zoning in 2007 regarding zoning issues and there are huge holes in the ability to be effectually enforcing tree planting in proposed development projects. He said he never received a response and was wondering if the Committee members had any thoughts. Professor Kipp said that since then Planning and Zoning have merged, so some of that may have changed, as well as the ordinance change. Mr. Viteretto suggested creating a sub-committee to discuss. Professor Kipp said that if Mr. Viteretto is willing to spearhead that she can forward some information to the liaisons to see who would be interested and requested he send her an email as to what will be involved and the extent of what they would be learning.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* PROFESSOR KIPP MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* MS. OLIVER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd