



## TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 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  
Richard Whitehead, Vice Chair  
Peter Viteretto  
Cindy Cossuto  
Sonja Oliver

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

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

Professor Kipp called the meeting to order at 6:01 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.)**

Mr. Jim Schell - 165 Fallow Street (Oak Hills Park)

Mr. Schell stated that he wanted to inform the Tree Advisory Committee on what is happening at the golf course and said that he has been contacted by a company in Norwalk regarding the location of where the trees were removed under the Eversource power lines, and they will be planting 16 Viburnum's. Professor Kipp said the Tree Advisory Committee has been working closely with the Oak Hills Association along with Eversource, Chris Torre and several others to ensure that the trees that were removed are replaced and Mr. Viteretto has developed a planting plan to enrich the area.

### **3. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 22, 2022.**

**\*\* PROFESSOR KIPP MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**  
**\*\* MS. COSSUTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **4. UPDATE - TREE CITY USA RECERTIFICATION APPLICATION**

Mr. Sotnik provided an update and said the Arbor Day Foundation has recertified the City of Norwalk as a Tree City USA for 2021 which is the 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. He said the City of Norwalk has also been awarded the Growth Award for 2021 for the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year and the awards are both on display at the DPW main office. Professor Kipp congratulated the members of the Tree Advisory Committee and all the other organizations that helped to bolster the number of trees that are planted in Norwalk as well as Mr. Sotnik for putting together the application on an annual basis.

**5. UPDATE - PLANNING FOR 2022 ARBOR DAY CLEAN UP EVENT –  
APRIL 28, 2022**

Mr. Whitehead said that he has been working with Mr. Torre and Mr. Sotnik on the Arbor Day Clean Up event and that it is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2022, and will have some local tree companies along with DPW doing a clean-up on the west side of southbound lane of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive from Washington Street to Lowe Street. Professor Kipp said a lot of people will be donating their time and expertise for the event, but it is not a community event where volunteers are needed due to safety concerns. Mr. Whitehead agreed and said that people are welcome to attend the Volunteer Thank You following the event. Mr. Viteretto said this is a streetscape and there are other aesthetics that may want to be considered and offered to do a site visit with Mr. Whitehead in advance of the event. Mr. Whitehead said that would be appreciated and asked Mr. Viteretto to contact him with his availability.

**6. UPDATE - PLANNING FOR 2022 ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION –  
APRIL 29, 2022.**

Professor Kipp said that there will be two Arbor Day events will be held this year and that the second event will be a tree planting ceremony at the schools as was done each year prior to Covid-19. Mr. Sotnik said the event will be held on Friday, April 29, 2022, at 1:15 P.M. at Naramake Elementary School, and he has a planning meeting scheduled for this Friday to discuss the ceremony and the tree species selection. Professor Kipp encouraged the members of the Tree Advisory Committee to attend the event if possible.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Viteretto said the Wall Street Association will be rehabilitating the tree planters for the Gingko Trees. Professor Kipp said that is great and asked Mr. Viteretto to contact her if she or her students can be of help.

Professor Kipp said that there is an Earth Day celebration that will be taking place on the Norwalk Green on April 23, 2022. Mr. Sotnik said the Tree Advisory Committee and D.P.,W. was invited by the organizers to participate in the event and said that anyone who would like to attend is more than welcome and they will be planting one of the trees in the Wall Street area as part of the tree planting program during the event. Professor Kipp asked Mr. Sotnik to have the events posted on the website. Mr. Sotnik said that he will work with the new Director of Communications.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd