

**Minutes**  
**TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
June 22, 2010

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Attendance: Don Nelson, Chairman  
Dave Tracy

Absent: Rich Whitehead  
Peter Viteretto  
Christine Names

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

Norwalk Tree Alliance: Dick Aime (Absent)

Neighborhood Liaisons: Gay Mac Leod, West Norwalk  
Dianne Witkowsky, Spring Hill Association  
Mike Mushak, Golden Hill Association  
Rob Frazier  
Doug Rising

Others: Munro Johnson, Redevelopment Agency  
Ms. Hoyte, Resident

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:10 P.M.

**2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF MAY 25, 2010**

**Tabled due to a lack of a quorum.**

**3. SELECT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR 2011 ARBOR DAY  
CELEBRATION**

Mr. Nelson said that the schools that have not yet had an Arbor Day Celebration are Fox Run, Wolfpit, Jefferson, Kendall and Naramake Schools. Mr. Tracy said that Jefferson school did not have an official Arbor Day, but they did have had an unofficial Arbor Day in 2003. Mr. Alvord said that Chris Torre had recommended

Wolfpit School because there will be five trees removed along Wolfpit Avenue that are deceased and have structural issues. Ms. Mac Leod said that she would like to recommend Fox Run School because there are four trees on school property that are deceased and will be removed, and there are not a lot of trees in the area. Mr. Nelson asked if the trees will be removed by the fall. Mr. Alvord said that the trees on Wolfpit Avenue have already been posted, and that a service request has been sent to Parks and Recreation for the removal of the trees at Fox Run School. Mr. Sotnik said that he will follow up with Mr. Mocciae. After further discussion it was decided that the next Arbor Day celebration will be held at Fox Run School and that Wolfpit School will be the alternate. Ms. Mac Leod said that she will forward the Principal of Fox Run School's contact information to Mr. Nelson so that he can make the initial contact.

#### **4. REPORT OF ILLEGAL CUTTINGS**

Mr. Sotnik had no illegal cuttings to report. He said that he is still following up with the resident at 25 Nursery Street to bring her into compliance.

#### **5. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM**

- a. East Norwalk- 4 old and 2 new plantings left for Spring 2010  
Mr. Sotnik said that four Sweet Gum trees will be planted at the two islands on Strawberry Hill Avenue. He said that when he went to stake the other two locations in East Norwalk, he found them not to be acceptable candidates for the tree planting program, and they have been denied.
- b. Wall Street  
Mr. Sotnik said this will be done as a fall planting.
- c. Highland Avenue Status  
Mr. Sotnik said that phase I has been completed and that 35 trees were planted.
- d. Elmwood Avenue  
Mr. Sotnik said that he will check with Mr. Bociek regarding the status of the trees and he asked that Mr. Mushak re-stake the locations. Mr. Mushak asked that Mr. Sotnik contact him with the status of the trees prior to him re-staking the locations.
- e. Main Street- DVB, planter locations, other planting sites  
Mr. Alvord said that this will be a fall planting. He said that he has received permission from the property owner of 167 Main Street to plant two trees on his property. He said that he still needs permission from the other two properties on that side of the street to be able to plant on private property.

- f. Other CY 2010-MLK Blvd. - Form Team  
Mr. Alvord asked if anyone is interested in working on developing a plan for a planting on Martin Luther King Blvd. Mr. Frazier and Mr. Mushak said that they would like to be on the Committee. Mr. Alvord said that he and Mr. Sotnik will be involved as well. Mr. Mushak requested that the planting be extended to the island at the intersection of Fairfield Avenue, West Washington Street and Martin Luther King Drive, and possibly create a plan for a park. He also said that the newly planted trees on West Avenue need to be watered.

## **6. INFORMATION COPIES**

- a. CTPA Summer Meeting  
Mr. Alvord distributed.

## **7. REPORT- TREE FESTIVAL LESSONS LEARNED SESSION**

Mr. Alvord said that there was a lessons learned session held a couple of weeks ago at the Gallagher mansion. He said that a lot of good information came out of it, and that there were no big issues to address. He said that the date was set for next years Tree Festival and it will be held on May 21, 2011, from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at Cranbury Park. He said that the permit application has already been submitted to Parks and Recreation and that the City Event and food permits are being processed. Ms. Witkowsky asked if having vendors has ever been discussed. Mr. Alvord said "yes" that it had been discussed in great detail, but the committees from both communities unanimously rejected it.

## **8. REPORT- TREE REMOVALS ON LOCAL PROTECTION PROJECT**

Mr. Alvord said that there is an operating agreement for the levy on Perry Avenue between the City and the Army Corps of Engineers which states that the City is required to maintain the levy to their specifications on an annual basis, and if any major structural repairs are needed in the future, the Army Corps of Engineers would do them at no cost to the City. He said that the channel was not constructed to the current criteria and there has been a consultant working on the certification process for approximately 3 months. He said that one of the problems with the levy is that there are trees growing in it and that this is a violation and can compromise the integrity of the levy itself, so the trees that were growing on the levy, and on the slope of the levy had to be removed. He said it was fortunate that the trees that had to be removed were not healthy trees.

## **9. DISCUSSION WITH REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY REGARDING TREES REALATIVE TO CONNECTIVITY PLAN**

Mr. Alvord introduced Mr. Johnson of the Redevelopment Agency. Mr. Johnson gave an overview of the Connectivity plan and said that it is currently in task "B." He said that urban greenery has been discussed as a strategy in a consistent way and said that he would like some thoughts and expertise from the Tree Advisory Committee wants to incorporate them into the plan. Mr. Alvord suggested that some members of the Tree Advisory Committee join the steering committee of the connectivity plan. Mr. Sotnik suggested having the Connectivity steering committee refer to the tree planting guide and the tree management plan. Mr. Alvord requested that Mr. Johnson e-mail him the date of the next planning event for the connectivity plan and he will forward that to the Committee members and determine who is interested in participating in the planning committee.

## **10. DISCUSSION- NTA ACTIVITES**

Mr. Tracy said that the Tree Alliance has primarily been cleaning up from the Tree Festival. He said that he was contacted by Betty Brink of the Human Services Council about an advertising agency who would like to volunteer for community projects. Mr. Alvord suggested the Chestnut Grove at Cranbury Park and said that he would discuss that with Mr. Moccaie. Ms. Mac Leod suggested they get involved with Keeping Norwalk Beautiful. Mr. Alvord said that he would mention that to Mr. Shockley.

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Rising said that due to the past storms there has been a lot of damage to the trees in the Marvin Beach area and requested a planting be done in the area. Mr. Alvord asked that he create a map of where he would like to see the trees planted and he would schedule a site visit to stake the locations.

Mr. Mushak said that there is a tree located at 146 East Avenue that needs to be removed and asked if he would need a permit to remove it. Mr. Alvord said that a permit would be required, but that he is giving him permission to remove the tree without a permit.

Mr. Mushak said that there is an empty tree pit located on North Main Street by the Bank of America.

Ms. Witkowsky said that she was contacted by the resident at 18 Ivy Place and they had stated that the City has removed two trees and that one of the stumps

was left above grade. She asked that staff look into it, and please have it removed.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

**\*\* MS. NAMES MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

