

Minutes
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
April 27, 2010

Attendance: Don Nelson, Chairman
Peter Viteretto
Rich Whitehead
Christine Names

Absent: Dave Tracy

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

Norwalk Tree Alliance: Dick Aime (Absent)

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

**2. APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF
MARCH 23, 2010**

**** MR. WHITEHEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. REPORT – INCIDENTS OF ILLEGAL CUTTING

Mr. Sotnik said that he received one report of a possible illegal cutting at 308 Flax Hill Road that requires further investigation.

4. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

- a. East Norwalk- 4 plantings left for Spring 2010
Mr. Sotnik said that the four Sweet Gum trees that are to be planted in the two islands on Strawberry Hill Avenue, as well as the two plantings on Pequot Drive and Barbara Drive will be done in the spring.

- b. Wall Street
Mr. Sotnik that there is one more tree to be removed and once it is removed the stumps will be ground. He said that some sidewalk repair work will need to be done around several of the tree pits, and once that is completed, the trees will be planted.
- c. Highland Avenue
Mr. Sotnik said that there is a City D.P.W. crew that is in the process of removing the trees and they are starting at Wilson Avenue and working their way south to McKinley Street. Mr. Alvord said that this project was delayed a bit by the storm on March 13, 2010, and its aftermath.
- d. Elmwood Avenue
Mr. Sotnik said that the two locations at 14 Bayview Avenue and 35 Couch Street have been staked and that the trees will be ordered.
- e. Main Street DVB, planter locations, other planting sites
Mr. Alvord said that he has received the check from CL&P. He said that he has spoken to DVB who is a realty firm that handles commercial properties. He said that there is a property that is located on the east side of Main Street that has space for a couple of trees to be planted. He said that DVB will be checking with the property owner they are representing. It will likely be a fall planting.
- f. Other CY 2010 - MLK Blvd.
Mr. Alvord said that Martin Luther King Boulevard is scheduled to be paved this summer and that he and Mr. Tracy had discussed possibly proceeding with the planting project following the re-paving of the road this summer. After further discussion it was decided to begin developing a planting plan following the Tree Festival with a goal of a fall planting.

Mr. Alvord said that the planting on Devon Place went well and that ten trees were planted.

5. INFORMATION COPIES

- a. Chris Donnelly March 26 letter
Mr. Alvord distributed and said that this letter is announcing that Mr. Donnelly has spoken to the Arbor Day Foundation and that for the sixth consecutive year Norwalk will be receiving the Tree City USA award, and for the fourth consecutive year will be receiving the growth award.
- b. Almstead contract extension (tree planting)
Mr. Alvord distributed and said that the current tree planting contract will expire on June 30, 2010, and that there is a provision in the contract that allows one option year. He said this is the letter to Almstead Tree stating that the option will be exercised and that the contract will be extended to June 30, 2011.

- c. The Connecticut Arborist
Mr. Alvord distributed
- d. Meskwaka Tree Project
Mr. Alvord distributed
- e. Tree City USA Bulletin No. 27
Mr. Alvord distributed
- f. Princeton Nursery Closeout Auction
Mr. Alvord said that Princeton Nursery is going out of business and they will be doing a public auction. He said that the trees will be sold in lots and if anyone is interested he will provide the paperwork.
- g. Chris Donnelly "regret" letter.
Mr. Alvord distributed and said that Mr. Donnelly will be unable to attend the Arbor Day celebration at Silvermine Elementary School.

6. UPDATE – ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION 2010

Mr. Alvord said that the final preparation meeting will be held on April 28, 2010, at Silvermine Elementary School.

7. UPDATE- TREE FESTIVAL 2010

Mr. Alvord said that the flyers have been approved and are ready for printing and that he will forward them to Ms. Mac Leod, Ms. Names and Mr. Witkowsky for distribution to their Neighborhood Associations and to Ms. Burton for CNNA. Mr. Alvord said that there will be certain exhibitors that will have an "Ask The Arborist" sign at their tent for anyone that has specific questions that like would like to ask a licensed arborist. Mr. Viteretto asked if the layout of the festival needs to be mapped out. Mr. Sotnik said "no" and that the tents will be picked up from 215 East Avenue at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, and delivered to Cranbury Park and that the volunteers will begin to set up the tents at 1:00 P.M. Ms. Mac Leod asked what kind of advertising will be done. Mr. Alvord said that there will be banners placed in both Norwalk and Wilton, yard signs, the City website, newspapers and the flyers are going to all of the schools. Ms. Mac Leod asked if any help will be needed for the Tree Advisory Committee tent. Mr. Alvord said that there currently is no tent for the Tree Advisory Committee, but said he thought that was a great idea. After further discussion it was decided that the Tree Advisory Committee would share a tent with the Department of Public Works, and that coverage will need to be scheduled. Ms. Mac Leod suggested having photos of before and after tree plantings of areas that have had plantings done.

Mr. Alvord said this year's tree advocate is Mike Mushak and there will be a presentation for him during the event at noon.

Ms. Witkowsky said that there are still many residents that are not aware of the tree planting program. She suggested that when a cluster of plantings are done in an area that a sign be placed for a certain amount of time stating where the trees came from. Mr. Alvord suggested that a ribbon cutting ceremony and press release also be done.

8. TREE CITY USA 2009

Mr. Alvord said that the awards have been received and are posted in the Department of Public Works reception area. Mr. Alvord presented Ms. Names with a hat and pin for her great job in preparing this years application.

9. DISCUSSION – NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES

Ms. Witkowsky said that Ms. Burton had made a presentation to the Parks and Recreation Committee requesting that prior notification be given to residents when projects are being considered.

Ms. Witkowsky presented the map of neighborhood associations boundaries and said that Ms. Burton is requesting that the map be updated, and that Rowayton and Cranbury be colored in prior to the Tree Festival. Mr. Alvord said that he has no problem assigning staff to do that but that someone will need to let staff know what the boundaries are. He said that the City does not define the boundaries and that the neighborhoods define themselves. Ms. Names requested that NASH be changed to the Neighborhood of Silvermine Homeowners Association.

10. DISCUSSION- NTA ACTIVITIES

Mr. Nelson said the focus has been on the tree festival and that they have been preparing the tents.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Mr. Viteretto said that he was officially contacted by the Redevelopment Agency regarding the tree well on Belden Avenue in front of Avalon Properties. He said that the Contractor had installed the tree well in the wrong place . After further discussion it was decided that the Tree Advisory Committee will ask the Redevelopment Agency to request that the Contractor install two Magnolia Trees.
- b. Mr. Mushak said that he would be willing to take the Adopt-A-Spot at Martin Luther King Drive and Washington Street. Mr. Alvord said that he will have staff check the property lines.
- c. Mr. Mushak said that there is a Linden Tree at the entrance to 148 East Avenue that was struck by a car. He said that the tree is dead and will need to be removed.

- d. Mr. Whitehead said that last year Almstead Tree had replaced three of the trees that were planted on Broad Street and wanted to wait and see if the others would come back. They have not, and now need to be replaced. Mr. Sotnik said that he will contact Mr. Bociek to check the trees.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7: 35 P.M.

