

**Minutes**  
**TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**March 23, 2010**

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Attendance: Don Nelson, Chairman  
Dave Tracy  
Christine Names

Absent: Rich Whitehead  
Peter Viteretto

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  
Jim McLoughlin

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM

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

**\*\* MR. TRACY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. REPORT OF ILLEGAL CUTTINGS**

Mr. Sotnik had no illegal cuttings to report. He said that the resident at 30 Oakhill Avenue has contacted him and he will be meeting with her next week to discuss her planting plan.

**4. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM**

a. East Norwalk- 4 plantings left for Spring 2010

Mr. Sotnik said that four Sweet Gum trees will be planted in the spring at the two islands on Strawberry Hill Avenue. Mr. Alvord said that all the plantings that are scheduled for the spring will be delayed for two weeks to a month as a result of the recent storm.

b. Wall Street

Mr. Sotnik said that the seven trees that were originally posted have been removed. He said that the one additional tree that the Committee decided should be removed has been posted, but has not yet been removed due to the clean-up from the storm. He said that the tree wells will also be repaired and once the work is completed the plantings will be done.

c. Highland Avenue

Mr. Sotnik said that he has spoken to Mr. Barnes of the Department of Transportation and he has given verbal approval to remove the trees. Mr. Sotnik said that in addition, there were a couple more trees on the upper end that he thought should also be removed. He said that Jack Robson of the Sixth Taxing District contacted the homeowners and they are all in agreement with the plan.

d. Main Street

Mr. Alvord said that he has spoken with DBV who is the realtor that represents the property on the west side of Main Street. He said that there is an area in front on their building that is private property where two of the nine trees will be planted. He said that beyond that he has not had a chance to speak with the other folks. He said that the check for the planters has been received from CL&P.

e. Other Look-Ahead to CY 2010

Mr. Sotnik said that there will be two additional plantings done in East Norwalk at the request of Mr. Overall. He said that there will also be two plantings done in the Golden Hill area at the request of Mr. Mushak.

f. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Project

Mr. Alvord stated that although this project will not be done by GE Capital, he would like to see the project concept retained for a future City planting project with a potential date of the Fall 2010 to be completed.

## **5. DISCUSSION- TREE FESTIVAL 2010**

Mr. Nelson said that the fourth planning committee meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2010, and will be held in Wilton.

## **6. UPDATE- ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION**

Mr. Nelson said that a meeting was held at Silvermine Elementary School on March 22, 2010, and said that things are moving along for the April 30, 2010 event. He said that copies of what had been done for Arbor Day in the past two years at various schools was left with them. Mr. Alvord said that representatives from Double Tree also attended the meeting. Mr. Nelson said that another meeting will be scheduled in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Alvord said that a copy of the guidebook was also left with them so they can select the species of tree to be planted.

## **7. GE CAPITAL PLAN FOR EARTH DAY PLANTINGS**

Mr. Tracy said after submitting the proposal they had stated that was not what they had wanted. He said it turns out they wanted to do a planting in Matthews Park and possibly at Devons Place. He said that they have been in contact with Mike Moccia. He said that they have a budget of \$10,000, and he had suggested to them the best approach would be to purchase the trees from Almstead Tree through the City's contract. Mr. Alvord said that although the project will not be done by GE Capital he suggested the planting still be done on Martin Luther King Drive as a future project, and recruit some people from the area who would be interested in participating and becoming a sponsor.

## **8. STORM UPDATE**

Mr. Alvord said that at 2:00 PM on Saturday, March 13, 2010, 25 City crews were called. He said that both the City and CL&P decided to call everyone in at 2:00 AM Sunday morning for safety reasons. He said that CL&P had one tree crew out with every two line crews, and by Tuesday morning they had 73 crews working in Norwalk and that 42 were line crews and the rest were tree crews.

Mr. Alvord said that in the City of Norwalk it is his estimate that 2000 to 3000 trees were lost and that a majority of them were private trees. He said that 80% were large Evergreen Trees, and of the deciduous trees that fell, the majority were either already dead or were diseased or damaged in some other manner. He said that CL&P still has roving patrols in Norwalk looking for hazardous trees that are not down or in the wires, but that pose some potential threat to the wires sometime over the next three to six months. Ms. Names asked if there is a tree that is seen that can somehow impact the wires, but is on private property, if the City would remove it. Mr. Alvord said "no" but to call Customer Service and they will contact CL&P. Ms. MacLeod asked who is responsible for picking up all the fallen wires. Mr. Alvord said to call Customer Service so that it can be verified which utility company owns the wire, and they will contact them. Ms. Names said

that there is a telephone pole at the corner of Silvermine Avenue and Route 123 that does not look stable and asked who she should contact. Mr. Alvord said she should try and obtain the pole number that is on the pole and to contact Customer Service.

Mr. Alvord said that this storm should be used as a marketing tool for the Tree Festival where residents can learn more about assessing and caring for their trees.

## **9. DISCUSSION-NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES**

Ms. Witkowsky said there may be a new tree liaison from the Flax Hill neighborhood association and that she may attend next months Tree Advisory Committee Meeting.

Ms. Witkowsky said there is a group that is interested in helping with the City's new website to become more efficient. Mr. Alvord recommended that they contact Karen Del Vechio. He said that the new website design is well underway and will be a lot easier to navigate. He said that each department has had two sessions with the consultant, and that each department will have a person that can do revisions based on input from the residents.

Ms. Witkowsky said that Mike Moccaie and the Common Council will be receiving a letter requesting where parkland is concerned, that public notification for a planned project should be made public prior to the contract being signed. She said that there is a plan for Fodor Farm and that no one from the Friends of Fodor Farm was ever consulted for their opinion.

## **10. DISCUSSION- NTA ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Nelson gave a brief overview of the last Tree Alliance meeting.

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

No discussion.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.