

Minutes

TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING December 22, 2009

Attendance: Don Nelson, Chairman
Peter Viteretto
Dave Tracy
Christine Names

Absent: Rich Whitehead

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
Rob Frazier

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 24, 2009

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

3. REPORT OF ILLEGAL CUTTINGS

Mr. Sotnik had no new illegal cuttings to report. He said that he is still working on bringing the ones that he reported last month into compliance.

4. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

- a. East Norwalk- 4 plantings left for Spring 2009
Mr. Sotnik said that four Sweet Gum trees to be planted in the two islands on Strawberry Hill Road will be planted in the spring 2010.

- b. Wall Street
Mr. Alvord said that Mr. Whitehead has looked at the seven trees on the east side of the bridge and determined that they need to be replaced. He said that a species now needs to be selected and a purchase order will be sent to Almstead Tree in the spring. He suggested planting male Ginkgo trees as was previously done on the rest of Wall Street.
- c. Look-ahead to CY 2010
Mr. Alvord said that there are still no significant plantings scheduled for the next calendar year other than the proposal for Highland Avenue from Mr. Frazier. Mr. Viteretto said that he has also proposed a planting on Ward Street along the cemetery.

Mr. Alvord said that he would still like to find an interested group in South Norwalk to work with. Mr. Nelson suggested contacting Ernie Dumas. He said that he has spoken to the Redevelopment Agency, Tad Diesel, and Ms. Becker and a meeting will be scheduled with the merchants in the Wall Street area in late January to see if a business association can be formed.

5. INFORMATION COPIES:

- a. Tree City USA Bulletin No. 25
Mr. Alvord distributed
- b. CTPA Arboriculture 101
Mr. Alvord distributed
- c. CTPA 88th Annual Meeting
Mr. Alvord distributed

6. STATUS - TREE CITY USA RE-CERTIFICATION AND GROWTH AWARD

Mr. Alvord said that Ms. Names had done a beautiful job on putting the application package together and it was sent in prior to the deadline. He said last year that Norwalk has spent close to \$1 million dollars on tree programs. Ms. Mac Leod asked how much was spent on plantings. Mr. Sotnik said \$50,825.

7. UPDATE- URBAN FORESTRY GRANT

Mr. Sotnik said that he has tried to contact Ms. Pytleski to see if she has received any paperwork back from Chris Donnelly, but was unable to reach her. Mr. Nelson asked how much the grant was for. Mr. Sotnik said \$8,000 and it is a fifty-fifty matching grant.

8. DISCUSSION- CHESTNUT PLANTINGS AT CRANBURY PARK

Mr. Nelson said that Mr. Moss has been in contact with Mr. Mocciae and they have chosen a spot at Cranbury Park for planting a group of Chestnut trees. He said that approximately six to ten trees will be planted and that Mr. Mocciae will fence off the area and ensure that they are watered.

9. TREE FESTIVAL 2010

Mr. Alvord said that all of the applications have been sent to Parks and Recreation and have been approved by the Parks and Recreation Committee. He said it is now on the Common Council agenda for the January 12, 2010 meeting. He said that he would like to get the letters out early to the potential donors and to the tree companies to get a commitment in advance. He said in the lessons learned session from last year it was decided to try and receive cash donations with a goal of receiving \$10,000. Mr. Sotnik said that he has spoken with Mr. Bociek and he wants to be included in both the Tree Festival and the planning committee. Mr. Nelson asked when the first planning meeting will be. Mr. Alvord said in late January. Ms. MacLeod asked if a date for the Tree Festival has been determined. Mr. Alvord said it will be held on May 22, 2010. Mr. Frazier suggested having a booth at the garden shows in the surrounding communities to publicize the Tree Festival.

10. LEARN AND EARN GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Alvord said that Ms. Cherichetti of the Conservation office had come to see him and said that there is a grant opportunity that the City wanted to apply for called "Learn and Earn." He said it would be done in sync with the Mayors summer youth employment program. He said that the idea is to hire 12 high school students and a program coordinator to participate in four environmentally oriented areas during a six week period. He said that three of the areas involve Public Works and one of the areas involves urban trees. He said that Ms. Cherichetti and Ms. Pytleski are in the process of putting the grant package together and it will go out next week.

11. DISCUSSION-NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES

No discussion.

12. DISCUSSION- NTA ACTIVITIES

Mr. Tracy said that a survey of signs has been done at the Rosa Parks Arboretum. He said that the plastic material to repair the damaged signs has been ordered. Mr. Nelson asked if there is space at the arboretum for additional plantings. Mr. Alvord said "yes."

13. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Alvord said a number of months ago that Dave Shockley had gotten linked with Keep America Beautiful and there is an affiliate program that towns and cities can enter into to focus on litter control. He said that a Board of Directors has now been created and the he and Mr. Nelson are on that Board.

Mr. Alvord said that there is a couple that lives on East Rocks Road who will be taking over the Adopt-A-Spots at the intersections of Newtown Avenue and Allen Road, and Newtown Avenue at Hazel Street in the spring. He said that there is also a sponsor that will be taking over all five of the Adopt-A-Spots on Calf Pasture Beach Road. He said that he and Mr. Overall had met with the owner of Meticulous Landscaping and discussed his concept, which is very acceptable. He said that in the spring of 2010, the D.P.W. will remove the asphalt from two of the strips beginning at the north end. Mr. Viteretto asked if staff will be seeing what the intent is when they submit their proposal. Mr. Alvord said that they will be submitting sketches like every other sponsor has done.

Mr. Alvord said that the City has obtained a permit from the Department of Transportation for the two spots on the east side of the bridge on East Avenue. He said that the City will be taking over those spots and will be planting and maintaining them.

14. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. TRACY MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.