

Minutes

TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING November 24, 2009

Attendance: Don Nelson, Chairman
Dave Tracy (Arrived at 6:20 P.M.)
Peter Viteretto

Absent: Rich Whitehead
Christine Names

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

Norwalk Tree Alliance: Dick Aime (Absent)

Neighborhood Liaisons: Jim McLoughlin

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 27, 2009

**** MR. VITERETTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED**

**** MOTION PASSED**

**** ONE ABSTENTION- MR. VITERETTO**

3. REPORT – INCIDENTS OF ILLEGAL CUTTING

Mr. Sotnik said that there was an illegal pruning of one of the two City trees at 18 Reynolds Street and that the police department was called out and a police report was done. He said he is now in the process of bringing them into compliance, and that the tree that was pruned will be watched for one year and if it dies, the property owner will be responsible for replacing the tree.

Mr. Sotnik said that there were seven evergreen trees in the City Right-of-Way that were removed at 30 Oakhill Avenue. He said that the resident was unaware of the ordinance and that he will be meeting with them next week to bring them into compliance.

Mr. Sotnik said there was an illegal cutting at 30 Richmond Hill Road. In 2007 the resident had placed a request to have the tree removed, and they were told that it was a healthy City tree and could not be removed. He said that Mr. Torre had recently noticed that the tree was missing. When he had gone out to the location last week with Mr. Torre, they found the tree, the roots, and the stump were all gone. He said that he will be fining the resident and they will be required to replace the tree.

4. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

- a. East Norwalk- 4 plantings left for Spring 2010
Mr. Sotnik said that 4 American Sweetgum trees will be planted in the spring because Mr. Bociek is unable to obtain quality stock at this time.
- b. Van Buren and Stevens
Mr. Sotnik said that the planting of the eight Maple trees at Van Buren Avenue and Stevens Street has been completed.
- c. Look-ahead to CY 2010
Mr. Alvord said that there is nothing scheduled other than the plantings in East Norwalk. He said he would look to replace seven trees on Wall Street in the spring. Mr. Alvord said he would like to find some people to volunteer to be tree liaisons and find some locations for plantings. Mr. Nelson said that Mr. Moss will be contacting Jane King of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (R.S.V.P.) and that they will be putting an advertisement in their newsletter for the recruitment of volunteers for tree liaisons. He said that there will also be an article in The Hour newspaper and the Norwalk Citizen News. Mr. Alvord said that NEON was also supposed to include an article in their newsletter and said they should be followed up with. Mr. Viteretto suggested that a planting be done along the frontage of Union Cemetery including Ward Street, and getting the Union Cemetery Organization involved. He said that he will try and meet with them sometime in January. Mr. Sotnik said that the plantings on Highland Avenue that Mr. Frazier requested will be reviewed and depending upon the results of that review, will also be scheduled for the spring. Mr. Alvord said that Mr. Conroy asked that the plantings be coordinated with the Sixth Taxing District because they also have a tree program that they are trying to execute. He said that the Administrator of the Sixth Taxing District had met with Mr. Frazier and was not pleased with what he was requesting to be planted, and that they will be working those issues out and said it will probably be a scaled down planting. Mr. Alvord said that he had told the Sixth Taxing District that anything they do on the Taxing District property will not be funded under the City tree planting program because they have their own mill rate to provide them with the funds to deal with the properties that they own. Mr. Nelson suggested getting Tia Sidey involved as well.

5. INFORMATION COPIES

- a. The Connecticut Arborist Fall 2009
Mr. Alvord distributed.
- b. Arbor Day November/December 2009
Mr. Alvord distributed.

6. UPDATE - FAILING TREES

Mr. Sotnik said that the list has been completed and that the work with the organic material on Broad Street has been done. He said that Mr. Bociek will be watching those trees for one year.

7. UPDATE – URBAN FORESTRY GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Sotnik said that Mr. Donnelly had informed him that Norwalk has been awarded the grant for the full \$8,000 for Phase II of the Calf Pasture Beach Canopy Restoration project.

8. UPDATE – WICKET FENCE FOR WALL STREET TREE PITS

Mr. Sotnik said based on thirty tree pits, the price quote that he received is for \$36,385.00. Mr. Viteretto asked if it would be worth the effort to obtain other quotes. Mr. Alvord said “no” and suggested finding a sponsor who would be willing to fund this project. After further discussion it was decided that Mr. Alvord will schedule a meeting with Dave Shockly and Ted Diesel along with the business owners in the Wall Street area to show them the plans of the area, and that Mr. Viteretto would work on a donor package.

9. UPDATE- TREE LIAISON RECRUITING

Mr. Alvord suggested adding the information to the scroll bar on the City's website along with a button on the front page with the flyer for the tree liaison recruiting information. He also suggested a radio and television spot to get the word out.

10. UPDATE – TREE FESTIVAL 2010

Mr. Alvord said that it is time to begin picking some dates in January for the joint planning commission to start meeting. He said that he will be crafting a letter to be sent out to all of last years sponsors to start working on the donations.

11. LOOK AHEAD – TREE CITY USA RE-CERTIFICATION AND GROWTH AWARD

Mr. Alvord said that Ms. Names has volunteered to put the packages together and that the goal is for a December 15, 2009 submission.

12. DISCUSSION - NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES

No discussion.

13. DISCUSSION - NTA ACTIVITIES

Mr. Tracy said that the annual meeting was held and that there has also been attention given to the Merritt Parkway tree cutting controversy. He said that they have submitted a petition to the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation, but to date, have not received any response back. He said within the next couple of weeks he will be going out to survey the Rosa Parks Arboretum for required maintenance.

14. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Viteretto said that on Westport Avenue that several Sweet Gum trees were removed and replaced with Dogwood trees and they should have been replaced with deciduous trees for more shade.

Mr. Alvord said that CL&P had been working on a transmission line on Main Avenue and they had also replaced the sidewalks and curbing. He said that they were supposed to install tree pits in the sidewalks, but they did not. He said that he had walked the area with their consultant, and looked for places where trees can be planted that would make sense, and had found a couple of areas on the west side of Main Avenue by Duchess Restaurant and the Artist Market. He said that CL&P has offered to provide planters for trees that can be moved. He said that at some point he would like some input on the species of trees and where the planters can be placed where they will have a reasonable chance of thriving.

15. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. VITERETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7: 15 P.M.