

Minutes

TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING September 22, 2009

Attendance: Don Nelson, Chairman
Richard Whitehead

Absent: Peter Viteretto
Dave Tracy
Christine Names

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

Norwalk Tree Alliance: Dick Aime

Neighborhood Liaisons: Dianne Witkowsky, Spring Hill Association
Robert 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 AUGUST 25, 2009

The approval of the minutes was tabled due to a lack of a quorum.

3. REPORT – INCIDENTS OF ILLEGAL CUTTING

Mr. Sotnik had no illegal cuttings to report. He said there is one potential illegal cutting but that the property lines need to be confirmed.

4. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

a. Van Buren and Stevens- Fall 2009
Mr. Sotnik said he had contacted Mr. Barnes, from the State Department of Transportation and he said that they will try and get the permit out this week.

b. East Norwalk- Spring 2009

Mr. Sotnik said that he will be placing the order with Almstead Tree and that the trees will be planted in approximately one week.

c. Calf Pasture Beach Road, Phase II- Fall 2009

Mr. Sotnik said that the locations were staked on September 22, 2009, and that he will be placing the order with Almstead Tree. Mr. Alvord said that the 3 trees that are to be planted at the southern end of Calf Pasture Beach Road were not staked due to the boat show that is scheduled for this weekend. He said that once the boat show is over those 3 locations will be staked.

d. Mr. Frazier stated that he will submit a proposed planting plan for the Highland Avenue area for a proposed fall planting.

e. Wall Street

Mr. Alvord said that he had requested Mr. Viteretto to contact the company to negotiate a price for the tree wickets on Wall Street. He said that he asked Mr. Viteretto to also provide them with the precise measurements of the tree wells. Mr. Alvord suggested replacing the trees on the east side of the bridge on Wall Street with male Ginko trees so that everything is consistent in that area. After further discussion it was decided to constitute a Wall Street planting and tree well project.

5. UPDATE- FAILING TREES

Mr. Sotnik said that Mr. Bociak will be getting the replacement trees this week. Mr. Alvord said that he will be contacting Jeff Spahr regarding purchasing the tree to be planted at City Hall in memory of Don Reid, so that the tree can be included in the order for Almstead Tree.

6. UPDATE-PEPPERIDGE FARMS TREE OFFER

Mr. Alvord said that Ms. MacLeod had developed a flyer to advertise the program. He said that he has intentionally held off finalizing the flyer, because he does not want to publicize this offer if the Farm Creek Association is going to use all the trees that are available. Mr. Nelson suggested following up with Pepperidge Farm to see how many trees will be donated. Mr. Sotnik said that he had spoken to them two weeks ago and they had stated they will be in the 40 to 45 range. He said that he had also discussed the transportation of the trees and they said that they will try and arrange to have one of their trucks to transport the trees. He said that a public works truck will be used as a back up if needed. Mr. Whitehead asked if the trees are coming from Pepperidge Farm. Mr. Sotnik said they are being delivered there as a distribution point. Mr. Alvord suggested that Mr. Moss do a press release on the Farm Creek planting and take photos of the volunteers planting the trees and shrubs.

7. UPDATE- "MILE-A-MINUTE" VINE

Mr. Alvord said that a resident on Algonquin Road had provided photos of some vines that had grown significantly on some trees and shrubs in their back yard. He said that he had asked Mr. Torre to look at them and he has determined they were not the Mile-A-Minute vine. He said there was also a possible sighting on Park and North Street but that Mr. Torre had also determined it was not the Mile-A-Minute vine. Mr. Alvord said that he never received information on the private property location on Blue Mountain Road that was on the original report from UCONN. He said that he will have an e-mail sent to Logan Senack who had sent the original report, and request the address on Blue Mountain Road.

8. UPDATE- URBAN FORESTRY GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Alvord said that Mr. Whitehead has gotten his part done on the application, and we are just waiting for Mr. Viteretto to complete the final drawings. Mr. Whitehead said that he had made some changes to the application from the Calf Pasture Beach Road staking. Mr. Sotnik said he would like to have the application federal expressed by Friday, September 25, 2009.

9. INFORMATION- PROPOSED TREE REMOVALS AND PLANTINGS AS PART OF THE WEST AVENUE ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Mr. Alvord said that the city has received funding from the Department of Economic and Community Development for the reconstruction on West Avenue, Crescent Street and Reed Street. He said as part of the project there are some trees that will need to be removed, and some will be replanted. He said that the trees have been posted and no complaints have been received to date.

Mr. Sotnik presented the plans and said that eight Maple trees of various sizes will be removed, and that eleven trees new trees will be planted. The new trees will be comprised of a combination of Bloodgood London Plantrees and Thornless Honeylocust trees. He said that the same tree well standard that was used on the upper section of West Avenue will be used. Mr. Frazier asked if there is any plan for a bike way. Mr. Alvord said "no" because there is no space in that the area.

10. REMINDER- PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE- OCTOBER 3, 2009

Mr. Alvord said that he would like to follow up with the Tree Alliance and asked if there will be a meeting this Thursday. Mr. Aime said "yes". Mr. Alvord said that the walk through is scheduled for October 2, 2009, and he wants to be sure the alliance is on board, and that they will have a display. Mr. Sotnik said that the tents will need to be picked up from 215 East Avenue. Mr. Alvord said that either he or Chris Torre will pick them up when they attend the meeting on Thursday.

11. DISCUSSION- NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES

Ms. Witkowsky said there is no CNNA meeting scheduled until September 28, 2009.

12. DISCUSSION- NTA ACTIVITIES

Mr. Aime said that various people have been assigned sections of a list of people who think they have an American Chestnut tree on their property. Mr. Frazier asked what the goal or purpose of the list is. Mr. Alvord said to confirm that there are in fact healthy American Chestnut trees living at a number of places in the region. Mr. Aime said that he has confirmed one tree to be an American Chestnut tree, and it is located in Westport.

13. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Alvord said that he received an e-mail that had been forwarded to him from a teacher who was interested in the National Day of Service on September 11, 2009. He said that they were going to clean some of the abandoned Adopt-A-Spots and they also have some interest in adopting one of the locations. He said that there are approximately 80 Adopt-A-Spots throughout the city, and that there are 15 available now. Mr. Nelson said that he had taken the list of Adopt-A-Spots to the Montessori school and showed them the list of spots that are available for adoption, but has not yet heard back from them. Mr. Alvord suggested finding someone who may be interested in overseeing the Adopt-A-Spots. After further discussion it was decided that Mr. Nelson and Mr. Alvord will meet with Dave Shockley to see if that can be tied into the Keep America Beautiful program.

Mr. Whitehead said that he had met with representatives of the Oak Hills Golf Course and they have requested to attend the October Tree Advisory Committee meeting.

Mr. Whitehead said that he had spotted a hanging tree limb over the middle of the road near Fox Run School and that he had called Mr. Sotnik to report it at 7:15 A.M. and it had been completely removed by 8:00 A.M. He said that he wanted to thank Mr. Sotnik, Mr. Torre, and the rest of the Department of Public Works staff for their timely response to the situation.

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.