

Minutes
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
June 23, 2009

Attendance: Dave Tracy
Maribeth Becker

Absent: Don Nelson
Peter Viteretto
Rich Whitehead

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/Hospital Area
Gay Mac Leod, West Norwalk
Robert Frazier
Christine Names

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Tracy called the meeting to order at 6:15 P.M.

**2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF
MAY 26, 2009**

**** TABLED DUE TO A LACK OF A QUORUM.**

3. REPORT- INCIDENTS OF ILLEGAL CUTTING

Mr. Sotnik had no illegal cuttings to report.

4. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

- a. Van Buren and Stevens- Spring 2009
Mr. Sotnik said that on June 9, 2009, Mayor Moccia was authorized by the Common Council to execute the planting maintenance agreement with the

Department of Transportation for the plantings on Van Buren Avenue. He said that he has sent the maintenance agreement to Mr. Barnes to complete the permit, and that he is waiting for him to fax it back. Ms. Witkowsky said that on behalf of herself and the neighborhood she wanted to thank the staff for all of their efforts to obtain the planting maintenance agreement. Mr. Alvord said this will be scheduled for a fall planting.

- b. East Norwalk-Spring 2009
Mr. Sotnik said that the order was placed with Almstead Tree on June 10, 2009, for 22 trees.
- c. Calf Pasture Beach Road, Phase II-Fall 2009
Mr. Alvord said that the culvert replacement construction project has been completed and that the remaining 15 trees will be scheduled to be planted in the fall.
- d. Scribner and Richards- Spring 2009
Mr. Alvord said that Mr. Sotnik had placed the order with Almstead Tree on June 10, 2009.

5. INFORMATION COPIES:

- a. Tree City USA Bulletin No. 23
Mr. Alvord distributed.

6. UPDATE- PROPOSED REVISIONS TO CITY CODE CHAPTER 112, TREES

Mr. Alvord said that the proposed changes to Chapter 112, of the City Code has gone to the Ordinance Committee last week, and is on the Council agenda for approval tonight.

7. REPORT- TREE FESTIVAL LESSONS LEARNED SESSION

Mr. Alvord said there was productive lessons learned session held where representatives from both Wilton and Norwalk had identified both the things that went well at the festival, and those that need improvement. He said that the people that participated on the Tree Festival Committee on both the Norwalk and Wilton side were very pleased, and will continue doing a joint Tree Festival at Cranbury Park in the future. Mr. Aime said that next year the "Friends of Cranbury Park" should be made aware of the Tree Festival. Mr. Alvord said that he will be contacting them shortly to participate in the event. Mr. Alvord said that the Tree Festival for next year has been scheduled for May 22, 2010.

8. ARBOR DAY 2010 CELEBRATION AT SILVERMINE ELEMENTARY

Mr. Alvord said that Mr. Nelson has scheduled a meeting with the Principal of Silvermine School for July 1, 2009.

9. FOLLOW-UP-FAILING TREES

Mr. Alvord said that he has received a number of reports over the past few months regarding some of the trees that have been planted that appear to be failing. He said that Mr. Sotnik has prepared a list of the trees which he has sent to Almstead Tree. He said that some of the trees are outside the one year guarantee period, but that they were brought to Mr. Bociek's attention while they were still within the one year guarantee period. He said that Mr. Bociek has agreed to replace those trees as well. Mr. Frazier asked if the trees had watering bags. Mr. Alvord said "no" because they don't last very long unless they are in a protected area. Mr. Frazier said that New York City is using them everywhere very successfully and suggested contacting their Parks and Recreation Department.

10. OFFER FROM PEPPERIDGE FARM

Mr. Tracy said that a representative from Pepperidge Farm has decided they can improve employee morale by offering to allow their employees to purchase Pepperidge Trees. He said that they had contacted an outfit called RPM that has offered to sell them the trees at retail to their employees, and donate an equal number of trees to a local community organization or municipality matching the number of trees that were sold to their employees. He said that it can be any species they have on their list. He said they are not the normal size trees that are generally planted in Norwalk, but that RPM claims they have a special process where they do something during the initial growing stage so the trees have extremely mature root balls, so they grow much faster. Mr. Alvord said there will need to be a sponsoring entity and a plan on where the trees will be planted so that they will have a fair chance of surviving and thriving. Mr. Alvord suggested contacting the Farm Creek Association and the Land Trust. Mr. Alvord asked if there is currently a Pepperidge Tree in the arboretum. Mr. Tracy said "no." Mr. Alvord suggested possibly planting one there. Mr. Frazier said that he will contact representatives from both the Farm Creek Association and the Land Trust, and asked who he should contact if they are interested. Mr. Tracy said that he will be the point of contact.

11. DISCUSSION- NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES

Mr. Alvord said that he did a presentation at last nights CNNA meeting for the expanded recycling program that will take effect on July 1, 2009. He said that for every ton of recyclables that are collected the City can earn \$17.50, and that ton also represents a savings of \$75.00 a ton which would have been paid to dispose of through the garbage contract. Ms. Names asked if there were any handouts provided at the meeting. Mr. Alvord said "yes" there were four different handouts and said that for anyone who is interested in distributing them to the neighborhoods or neighborhood associations that he has them outside his office, and are more than welcome to do so. Ms. Witkowsky said that the other topics of discussion at the meeting were the Ryan Park plantings, and the Crime Committee discussed the different possibilities that could be brought the attention of Chief Rilling.

12. NTA ACTIVITIES

Mr. Aime said that the Norwalk Tree Alliance has decided to meet every other week rather than every week during the summer. He said that the new meeting schedule will begin this week, and that there will be no meeting on June 25, 2009. Mr. Tracy said there needs to be a few more sessions held for cleaning the tents and signs from the Tree Festival.

13. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Alvord said that this will be the last Tree Advisory Committee meeting for Ms. Becker as a Committee member, and that her term will expire on July 1, 2009. He said that she has been a great Committee member and has done a fantastic job. He said that Ms. Names will be appointed by the Mayor to join the Tree Advisory Committee on July 14, 2009.

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.M.