

## Minutes

### TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING February 24, 2009

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Attendance: Don Nelson, Chairman  
Rich Whitehead  
Dave Tracy  
Maribeth Becker

Absent: 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 Association  
Diane Witkowsky, Spring Hill Association

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM

#### **2. APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF JANUARY 27, 2009**

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

#### **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 the permit application is in process for the 8 trees. He said as long as the State can get the permit back with the permission, this will be scheduled for a spring planting.

- b. East Norwalk- Spring 2009  
Mr. Sotnik said that Mr. Overall has 18 locations in a variety of spots and this will also be scheduled for a spring planting.
- c. Calf Pasture Beach Road, Phase II- Fall 2009  
Mr. Alvord said this will be scheduled for a fall planting due to the culvert project on Calf Pasture Beach Road. He said that the bid packages are out and are due back on Friday, and he wants to ensure that the trees are not going to be planted during construction. Chairman Nelson asked how many trees will be planted. Mr. Alvord said 15.

## **5. UPDATE- ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION PLANNING**

Chairman Nelson said that a meeting needs to be scheduled with the Principal of Cranbury School. Mr. Alvord said that he is waiting for a response from Teri Almond for her part in Arbor Day and the Tree Festival.

## **6. UPDATE – TREE FESTIVAL 2009**

Mr. Alvord said that the invitations will be going out and that the list has been updated to include those officials that should be invited. Mr. Sotnik said that Mr. Moss has put an article in The Hour newspaper. Ms. Becker suggested getting the “Friends of Cranbury Park” involved. Mr. Tracy said that a member of that organization had attended the last Tree Alliance Committee meeting, and he will be going back and asking members to volunteer for the Tree Festival. Mr. Alvord said that Mayor Moccia and the First Selectman from Wilton will both issue proclamations at the Tree Festival.

## **7. STATUS – TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Mr. Alvord said that he had received comments from Mr. Sotnik and that Ms. MacLeod had reviewed the plan and sent him her comments. He said that he welcomes any comments that anyone else may have. He said the only section that is left to be done is the public participation piece and he asked Mr. Tracy to follow up with Mr. Aime to see if he has made any progress, and if he has, ask him to e-mail it to him so that he can insert it into the plan.

## **8. UPDATE- PLANTING BUDGET**

Mr. Sotnik said as of today the remaining balance is \$65,051.36. Both Mr. Alvord and Mr. Sotnik thanked Ms. Byrd for her efforts in researching the remaining budget balance. Mr. Alvord said that \$25,000 has been requested in the Capital Budget for next year. He said that he did not realize until he attended the Parks and Recreation workshop with the Planning Commission, that they had not requested any money for next year. He said that they typically request \$15,000 a year, but based on the closer coordination between

Parks and Recreation and Public Works, they did not feel like they had to request for anymore money. He said that he can't go back and revise the capital budget request to \$40,000 to cover the shortfall, but in succeeding years, he will speak to Mr. Mocciae to see if he plans to request any funds. He said if he does not, he will increase the Public Works request by \$15,000.

## **9. DISCUSSION – NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES**

Ms. Witkowsky said that moving forward the CNNA is attempting to work with Planning and Zoning to see if some of the things can be coordinated off the master plan. Mr. Alvord said that if progress is going to be made, there will need to be a lot more neighborhood association involvement. He suggested identifying the projects that will require funding and forming a united front in getting them into the budget, and at the same time choose a couple of projects that won't require any budget support.

## **10. DISCUSSION – NTA ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Tracy said that they have been concentrating on the planning for the Tree Festival.

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Whitehead said that he was contacted by James Blomberg and Eric Grange and that they are interested in forming a Maritime Association. He said that he has a meeting scheduled with them next Thursday. He said that they have also requested to attend the next Tree Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Alvord said it would be great to have an association in that area.

Mr. Sotnik said he had received a request from Mr. Vorio regarding an Oak Hills landscaping improvement project adjacent to Hole #18, and the main parking lot. Mr. Sotnik said that he had a couple of concerns with what Mr. Vorio had presented, and asked for responses to those concerns. He said that they will be removing 4 pine trees and he had asked Mr. Vorio what he is trying to accomplish. Mr. Vorio stated that he wanted to improve the area aesthetically and there are also some drainage issues. He said that he is proposing to install a Little Leaf Linden, Japanese Zelkova, River Birch, and a Bradford Pear tree as well as a group of shrubs to create a more aesthetically pleasing area. Mr. Whitehead suggested taking out the Bradford Pear tree because they self destruct, and are not trees that have a long life span, and install something that will have a more substantial size to them. Mr. Sotnik asked Mr. Whitehead if he had any suggestions. Mr. Whitehead suggested a Maple tree.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 6:50PM