

Minutes

TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING January 27, 2009

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

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:08PM

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF DECEMBER 23, 2008

Mr. Whitehead said on Page 3, Item 7, Line 19, to change "southwest" to "southeast"
Mr. Whitehead said on Page 3, Item 7, Line 20, to change "Geneova Road" to "Scribner Avenue"

**** MR. TRACY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH CORRECTIONS**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. REPORT – INCIDENTS OF ILLEGAL CUTTING

Mr. Sotnik had no illegal cuttings to report. He said that he had received a report of a potential illegal cutting at the intersection of Fox Run Road and Ponus Avenue, but after further investigation it was determined that the trees that were cut were all privately owned.

4. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

a. Van Buren and Stevens

Mr. Sotnik said that he has spoken with Mr. Barnes of the State Department of Transportation, and said that Mr. Barnes would like the City to submit a permit application, but he would be willing to waive some of the requirements for the permit, such as the City/State maintenance agreement and the signatures of the adjoining property owners. He said that he has begun the permit application process and once completed will send it to Mr. Barnes. Chairman Nelson asked how many trees will be planted. Mr. Sotnik said 8 Maple Trees.

Chairman Nelson said that he has received an e-mail from Mr. Overall stating that he will be ready to plant 14-17 trees in the spring.

5. INFORMATION COPIES:

- a. Trees & Utilities National Conference (circulated).
Mr. Alvord circulated
- b. Arbor Day January/February 2009.
Mr. Alvord distributed.
- c. Tree City USA Bulletin No. 21
Mr. Alvord distributed
- d. State of Connecticut D.E.P. Division Of Forestry Announcement For Workshop On Trees and Tree Care
Mr. Alvord distributed

6. UPDATE – TREE FESTIVAL 2009

Chairman Nelson said that he has met Paula Byrde of the Wilton Garden Club and have chosen 4 establishments in Norwalk and Wilton to ask for donations of food for the Tree Festival. He said that letters will go out to the establishments within the next week. Mr. Alvord said that there was a meeting held last week for the Tree Festival and there was a lot of interest and energy. He said that a good contact list was developed and that co-coordinators were chosen for each planning function. He said that there is now a schedule for the general planning meetings, which will be alternated between Norwalk and Wilton, and that several meetings will be held at Cranbury Park. Chairman Nelson asked Ms. Becker if she would be interested in working on the activities for the kids at the festival. Ms. Becker said that is a very busy time of year for her and that she would be happy to help if someone else would take the lead. She asked if anyone had expressed any interest at the meeting. Mr. Alvord said “yes” and that there are co-coordinators for each of the planning functions. Chairman Nelson asked Mr. Alvord if he could e-mail the list of co-coordinators and the contact list to the Committee members. Mr. Whitehead asked what category nurseries would fall into, and Mr. Alvord said exhibitors. Mr. Alvord said it has been the experience in the past that nurseries did not participate because that is a busy season for them, but that several had made a donations. Mr. Whitehead suggested that the nurseries who donated last year be contacted this year to either participate or to make a donation.

Mr. Alvord said that Mr. Moss and Jessica Kaplan have been working together on the first press release and that there has been letterhead developed for the event and that Mr. Tracy had created the logo. Chairman Nelson said that he had requested that Mr. Moss contact the Exchange Club regarding the cooking for the festival.

Mr. Tracy asked if there would be an Air Spade work demonstration. Mr. Whitehead said that would be hard to demonstrate because of safety issues. Mr. Tracy asked if it could be done before the festival opens to the public. Mr. Whitehead said he would need to give that some thought. Mr. Viteretto asked if there is a contractor that may be interested in demonstrating a bare-root tree planting. Mr. Alvord asked who did the tree planting demonstration at last year's festival. Mr. Whitehead said that Hoffman did the planting, but he is unsure if they do bare-root plantings. Mr. Alvord suggested asking them to do a demonstration of the planting of the tree that Mr. Moss is keeping at his home.

Mr. Alvord said that he would be contacting Julie Burton, of the CNNA regarding attending a CNNA meeting to see if interest could be re-sparked for tree liaisons from the neighborhood associations, and that would also provide the opportunity for him to inform them of the Tree Festival.

7. STATUS – TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr. Alvord said that he has sent around the latest version of the plan to the Committee members, and that Mr. Sotnik has provided him with some comments following his review of the plan. He said that he would appreciate any other comments anyone else may have. He said the only section left to be done is the public participation section, which no one has volunteered for. Mr. Tracy said that Mr. Aime was working on that this past weekend. Mr. Alvord asked Mr. Tracy if he could follow up with Mr. Aime on the status. Mr. Alvord said that the plan could potentially be presented to the Public Works Committee, and the Common Council at the March meetings for approval.

8. STATUS – VOLUNTEER GUIDEBOOKS

Mr. Alvord said that there are now 16 copies of the guidebook in stock, and it is his intention to have approximately 30 on hand. He said now that there is a completed guidebook to give to the liaisons, it would be great if more liaisons can be recruited, and offer training sessions to them. Chairman Nelson suggested bringing a copy of the guidebook to the next CNNA meeting. Mr. Alvord said that Mr. Shockley has asked him if there is anything he would like to present at the next Mayors neighborhood task force meeting, and he suggests the guidebook be presented both there and at the next CNNA meeting.

9. DISCUSSION – NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES

Ms. Becker said that the CNNA met last night, and that Mike Greene was there to discuss the Master Plan of Conservation and Development, and to ensure that the things

included in the plan are getting done. She said that the members of the CNNA will be going through the plan again and identifying what the top things are to work on. Mr. Viteretto asked if the plan was available on line. Mr. Becker said "yes". Mr. Alvord said it can be found on the Planning and Zoning website. Chairman Nelson said that it would be a good idea to identify all the tree related pieces of the plan and suggested adding it to next months agenda.

Chairman Nelson asked the status of the Volunteer Action Center. Mr. Tracy said that he did not contact them yet, but it is on his list. Chairman Nelson said that they now have a new manager and she was asking where volunteers are needed, and he suggests contacting her for volunteers for tree liaisons. Mr. Tracy said he was also contacted by Norwalk New Neighbors and they are looking for projects to do, and said that he had invited her to attend the Tree Festival. Mr. Alvord suggested providing them information on the Tree Alliance. Chairman Nelson asked if they hold a monthly meeting. Ms. Becker said "yes" and that they also have a monthly news letter.

10. DISCUSSION – NTA ACTIVITIES

Mr. Tracy said that the Tree Alliance has been involved in preparing for the Tree Festival. He said that he, Mr. Landau and Mr. Aime had attended a CTPA meeting, and said it is the largest single day tree meeting in the country. He said that the Milford Tree Alliance had received arborist's awards, and that it was a very good meeting. He said that they had a good talk on the Asian Longhorned Beatle. He suggested that information be available at the Tree Festival regarding the Longhorned Beatle. Mr. Alvord suggested that Mr. Donnelly be contacted and ask that he include something on the Longhorned Beatle as part of his display.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Alvord suggested scheduling an initial meeting at Cranbury School for the Arbor Day activities. He said that he will be contacting Terri Almond to see if she is still interested in participating in both the Arbor Day celebration, and the Tree Festival. Ms. Becker asked what day Arbor Day is. Mr. Alvord said April 24, 2009. He said that the Mayor will be out of town that day, and under the City charter it states that when the Mayor is out of town, the President of the Common Council acts in the Mayors place. He said assuming that the Mayor agrees, he will be asking Phyllis Bolden to participate.

12. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. BECKER MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNNANMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.