

Minutes

TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING December 23, 2008

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

Absent: 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 6:05 PM

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 25, 2008

**** 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
Mr. Sotnik said that he is still trying to make contact with and receive a return phone call from Mr. Barnes of the State Department of Transportation. Chairman Nelson asked how many trees are involved. Mr. Sotnik said 8 maple trees.

5. INFORMATION COPIES

- a. Tree City USA Bulletin No. 20
Mr. Alvord distributed
- b. Storm Recovery CD (discussed- not distributed)
Mr. Alvord said that the National Arbor Day Foundation has done some work on how to recover the urban forest from storm damage. He said that he has not yet reviewed the CD, but wanted to make the Committee members aware that this resource is available. Chairman Nelson suggested that Mr. Bociek may be interested in viewing the CD.

6. REPORT- COURTESY VISIT TO COLUMBUS PRINCIPAL

Chairman Nelson said that Mr. Alvord, Mr. Tracy and himself had visited the Principal of Columbus School on December 15, 2008. Mr. Tracy said that they had explained the history and the future plans of the arboretum. He said that they agreed when working in the arboretum that the school would be notified. He said that she seemed very supportive and enthusiastic. Chairman Nelson said that signs still need to be installed at the arboretum, and they are thinking about installing another tree. Mr. Tracy said that signs need to be made for the existing trees that don't have a sign yet, as well as for some of the additional trees that will become a part of the arboretum. He said that the main sign will also need to be replaced.

7. DISCUSSION- TREE FESTIVAL 2009

Chairman Nelson said that the Tree Festival is scheduled for May 16, 2009, and asked if any response has been received from the Wilton Garden Club. Mr. Tracy said "no" and that he would follow up with them. Mr. Viteretto suggested that the master plan for Cranbury Park be displayed at the Parks and Recreation booth. Mr. Alvord said that he would speak to Mr. Mocciae.

Chairman Nelson said that NEON had purchased a tree to donate to Pepperidge Farm, but they had no space for it. He said that Mr. Whitehead had looked at the tree and said that it was salvageable. Mr. Alvord asked if the tree was in a pot. Mr. Whitehead said "yes". Ms. Mac Leod said that it had been previously discussed to have the tree planted in West Norwalk but her concern was that the tree would not get enough care and water. She said that she received a call from Chairman Nelson stating that NEON had decided to donate the tree to Cranbury Park, and it would receive the care it needs, and will also receive a plaque. He said he would like to have the planting incorporated with the Tree Festival. Mr.

Tracy said that Mr. Moss has agreed to care for the tree at his residence until the time of the planting. Mr. Alvord asked how big the tree is. Mr. Whitehead said approximately 6 feet. Chairman Nelson asked if another tree can be planted in West Norwalk. Mr. Alvord asked Ms. Mac Leod which corner of the intersection of Richards Avenue and Scribner Avenue was being considered for the planting. Ms. Mac Leod said the left corner. Mr. Sotnik asked if there would be a sight line issue. Mr. Alvord said "no". Mr. Alvord said he thought that would be a great location. Mr. Alvord suggested encouraging Adopt- A- Spot sponsors for that location, and said just because the location is in the West Norwalk Neighborhood Association does not necessarily mean we would have to look at the Association to sponsor the spot. Ms. Mac Leod asked if it would be her responsibility to water the tree. Mr. Alvord said that the City contractor is obligated to maintain the tree for 1 year, which includes watering the tree. Chairman Nelson said the planting should be scheduled for the spring, and that the West Norwalk Association can make some recommendations for the species to be planted. Ms. Mac Leod suggested a Copper Beach tree. Mr. Alvord said that species is not included on the contract list, and suggested that she use the volunteer guidebook when choosing the species. Mr. Sotnik asked for clarification for the location of the tree to be planted. Mr. Alvord said it will be on the southeast corner of the intersection of Richards Avenue and Scribner Avenue.

8. REMINDER- TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr. Alvord said that Chairman Nelson has provided him with his input and it has been incorporated into the plan. He said that Mr. Viteretto and Mr. Tracy have given him their sections, and he is now formatting them and will put them into the plan. He said that Mr. Whitehead has promised to make every effort to provide his input. He said there is still one section to be completed that no one had volunteered to develop. Mr. Viteretto asked which section. Mr. Alvord said the public participation and involvement section. Chairman Nelson asked what that would include. Mr. Alvord said it should include ways to encourage more volunteers, and outline the importance of volunteer participation. Chairman Nelson asked Mr. Viteretto if he could work on that section. Mr. Viteretto said he would not be able to work on it until at least February. Chairman Nelson suggested that the Tree Alliance get involved and include the work Marvin Moss does for public relations and appeals to public participation. Mr. Tracy said he would bring it up at the next Tree Alliance meeting. Mr. Alvord suggested that it may make more sense to include the public participation section into the public outreach and education section that Mr. Viteretto has completed. He also said that each time a new section is added to the plan he e-mails it to the Committee members and that he encourages any comments they may have.

9. APPLICATION FOR RE-CERTIFICATION- TREE CITY USA AND GROWTH AWARD

Mr. Sotnik said that the applications were sent in to the State on December 8, 2008. He also passed copies of the completed application package around for members of the Committee to review. Mr. Alvord said he would like to express his thanks to Mr. Tracy and Mr. Aime for compiling the materials for the application.

10. DISCUSSION-NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES

No discussion.

11. DISCUSSION- NTA ACTIVITIES

Mr. Tracy said the annual Norwalk Tree Alliance meeting was held last Thursday and that a few new people had attended.

12. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Alvord said that there are 2 large trees at the driveway of 122 Murray Street and it has been determined that the tree on the left, with some judicious pruning could be saved, but that the tree on the right side will need to be removed. He said that he had informed the resident that the tree will be posted, removed and that the stump will be ground in the spring. He said he also told them that they could participate in the selection of species to be planted. He said that he had informed them of the date that the tree would be removed, and on that date when the crew went to remove the tree, the resident had parked his car in front of the trunk of the tree, and refused to move it. He said he had asked Mr. Bociek to perform an ISA tree evaluation and the results were a 9 on a scale of 1 to 12, 12 being the maximum risk. He said he will be writing the resident a letter explaining that the tree must be removed, and if they don't cooperate there will be police involvement.

Chairman Nelson asked the status of the wicket fences. Mr. Alvord said that he had sent Monroe Johnson of the Redevelopment Agency the cut sheets, and price quotes from the company. He said that Mr. Johnson had spoken to Mr. Sheehan and he has decided that this project is something they do not want to fund. Mr. Viteretto asked what the next step should be. Chairman Nelson suggested having POKO Partners tie them into their project, and asked if a meeting should be scheduled with them. Mr. Alvord suggested speaking with Ms. Becker to coordinate a meeting with representatives from POKO. Chairman Nelson also suggested that Dave Shockley should also be contacted.

Mr. Tracy asked about the status of the C.L. & P. work related to trees and tree planting. Mr. Whitehead said they did plant a couple of trees at the intersection of Ponus Avenue and New Canaan Avenue near Wendy's, but there are a total of 28 that need to be planted. Mr. Alvord said now that all of the transmission lines have been energized, it is his expectation that the interest level on the part of C.L. & P. and the Contractor to complete the remaining punch list items will drop off significantly. He stated that the potential challenge will be to get them to complete all of the remaining items including the tree planting. Chairman Nelson asked who is responsible for the follow up. Mr. Alvord said that CL&P and their general contractor are still responsible for completing the work that they are under contract to do.

13. ADJOURNMENT

**** CHAIRMAN NELSON MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

