

## Minutes

### TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING November 25, 2008

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Attendance: Don Nelson, Chairman  
Dave Tracy  
Maribeth Becker

Absent: Peter Viteretto  
Rich Whitehead

Staff: Hal Alvord, Tree Warden (Absent)  
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 6:10 PM

#### **2. APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 28, 2008**

Mr. Sotnik said "Tree Warden" should be added next to Mr. Alvord's name on Page 1, under Staff.

Ms. Mac Leod said on Page 2, Item 2, Line 2, to change "Restaurant" to "restaurant"

Mr. Tracy said on Page 2, Item 3, Line 6, to change "trial" to "trail"

**\*\* MS. BECKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **3. APPROVE THE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2009**

**\*\* MS. BECKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. DETERMINE IF MEETING LOCATION SHOULD BE MOVED TO DPW LIBRARY, ROOM 225**

Chairman Nelson said that Mr. Alvord requested that the Tree Advisory Committee meetings be relocated to the D.P.W. conference room. He said that it would make it more convenient for himself and Mr. Sotnik to get to the meetings. Mr. Sotnik said it would also allow the Mayor's office to utilize room 101 for other meetings with larger groups.

**\*\* MR. TRACY MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM COMMENCING IN JANUARY, 2009.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. REPORT - INCIDENTS OF ILLEGAL CUTTING**

Mr. Sotnik said there were no illegal cuttings to report.

**6. REPORT - REMOVAL OF WIRES ATTACHED TO TREES AT ARMSTRONG COURT.**

Mr. Sotnik said that A.T.&T. had removed the all the wires from the City trees on November 11, 2008.

**7. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM**

- a. East Avenue  
Mr. Sotnik said that the plantings have been substantially completed with the exception of Staples Court. Chairman Nelson asked what is left to be done. Mr. Sotnik said that Mr. Overall is canvassing the residents on Staples Court to determine which residents want the planting and which do not because some residents were stating that they do not want it.
- b. Van Buren and Stevens  
Mr. Sotnik said that he is still waiting on a response back from the State Department of Transportation.
- c. Maple Street - additional trees  
Mr. Sotnik said that the two additional trees have been planted on the Water Department's property.

- d. Calf Pasture - Phase I complete; Phase II CY 2009  
Mr. Sotnik said that Phase I has been completed, and that the permits for the Army Corp and the Office of Long Island Sound have been obtained. He said that a spring construction has been planned and that Phase II will probably be a fall planting in 2009. Chairman Nelson asked how many trees will be planted in Phase II. Mr. Sotnik said 15.

## **8. INFORMATION COPIES**

- a. Arbor Day November/December 2008  
Mr. Sotnik distributed.

## **9. PROJECT UPDATE - WICKET FENCE FOR WALL STREET TREE PITS**

Mr. Sotnik said that he had received an e-mail from Mr. Alvord stating that the Redevelopment Agency will not be funding the wicket fences for the Wall Street tree pits.

## **10. DISCUSSION - TREE FESTIVAL 2009**

Chairman Nelson said that the Tree Festival will be held on May 16, 2009, at Cranbury Park. He said that he and Mr. Tracy had met with the Wilton Garden Club, and at their next Board meeting they will decide whether or not they will join the Tree Festival. Mr. Sotnik distributed a copy of the Recreation & Parks permit application for the 2009 Tree Festival that was submitted on November 13, 2008.

## **11. DISCUSSION – GRANTS TO MUNICIPALITIES FOR CONTROL OF INVASIVE PLANTS**

Ms. Becker said that she had sent an e-mail to the Land Trust to see if they were interested and that it appears they are more likely to work with the Conservation Commission. She said that she had suggested if they need another organization that will help the application look better, the Tree Advisory Committee would be happy to be part of it. Mr. Sotnik said that he had spoken with Alexis Cherichetti of the Conservation Commission, and that they are also looking for ideas for what to do, and they would need someone to take the lead. He said that Mr. Alvord wanted him to relay the message to the Committee that if there is not a project or someone to take the lead on putting this together, it probably would not get done by the Tree Advisory Committee or D.P.W. at this point in time.

## **12. REMINDER - TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Mr. Sotnik said that Mr. Alvord would like this to be finalized by December 2008, so that he can pass it along to the Public Works Committee, and the Common Council for approval in January 2009. Chairman Nelson suggested that Mr. Sotnik e-mail Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Viteretto for the status of their sections that they had volunteered to do.

## **13. APPLICATION FOR RE-CERTIFICATION - TREE CITY USA AND GROWTH AWARD**

Mr. Sotnik said that the application is due the first week of December. Mr. Tracy asked Mr. Sotnik when he would be available to meet. Mr. Sotnik said he would be available on Tuesday, December 2, 2008, at 10:00 AM. Mr. Tracy requested a copy of last year's application. Mr. Sotnik said he would provide him with a copy.

## **14. DISCUSSION - NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES**

Chairman Nelson said that the CNNA had met and they discussed the Guardian Angels and the budget presentation for the Waypointe project.

## **15. DISCUSSION - NTA ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Tracy said there have been ongoing attempts by Mr. Moss to get a chestnut planting going and that he is attempting to obtain chestnut seeds or seedlings for next spring. He is working with the schools to find a place where they can be planted. He also said that there is a radio interview scheduled for January 12, 2009.

## **16. NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Nelson said that Ms. MacLeod will see if she can find a location in West Norwalk for the tree that RSVP has. He said that Mr. Whitehead had looked at the tree and said it is still surviving, and thinks if it is planted will stand a fifty-fifty chance of survival. Ms. MacLeod said that her only concern is water, and wants to ensure that the tree will get the care and attention that it needs.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* CHAIRMAN NELSON MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

