

TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

**TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 27, 2008**

Attendance: Don Nelson, Chairman
Maribeth Becker

Staff: Hal Alvord, Tree Warden
Paul Sotnik, Deputy Tree Warden
Dilene Byrd, Secretary

Absent: Peter Viteretto
Rich Whitehead
Dave Tracy

Neighborhood Liaisons: Dianne Witkowsky, Spring Hill/Hospital Area
Gay Mac Leod, West Norwalk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:10PM

**2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF
APRIL 22, 2008**

No quorum available therefore the approval of minutes was tabled until the June meeting.

3. REPORT- INCIDENTS OF ILLEGAL CUTTING

Mr. Sotnik had no illegal cuttings to report.

4. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

a. East Avenue

Mr. Alvord said that Mr. Overall had sent out another letter with some input from Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Viteretto and still only has 3 property owners that have any interest in the plantings and one of them is claiming they cannot afford to remove the dead tree, which is a private tree. He said only planting two trees will not re-establish canopy on East Avenue and suggested holding off and focusing on other places in the City that there are known plantings that can in fact re-establish a canopy on a whole section of a street and maybe in the fall do a more focused campaign on East Avenue.

b. Tree Planting RFP Status

Mr. Alvord said that the RFP went out in March and that somehow the list of trees and shrubs that went out in the RFP was not the correct list. He said that the Purchasing Department went back to the four proposers and asked them to provide additional prices on species that should have been on the list. He said there is now a complete list of prices and on Friday morning a team will be interviewing all four proposers. He said that the interview team will consist of himself, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Sotnik and either Dave Carrol or Gerald Foley of the Purchasing Department.

5. INFORMATION COPIES

a. Tree City USA Bulletin No. 46

Mr. Alvord distributed.

b. Arbor Day- May/June 2008

Mr. Alvord distributed.

6. UPDATE-TREE REPLACEMENTS ON CALF PASTURE BEACH ROAD

Mr. Alvord said that he has e-mailed the President of the Charles Cove Condominium Association several times and has gotten no response and said there is still time to do a planting on Calf Pasture Beach Road but will need to have Mr. Viteretto and Mr. Whitehead do a planting plan. Mr. Nelson said that he would contact them.

7. DISCUSSION- LESSONS LEARNED FROM 2008 TREE FESTIVAL

Mr. Nelson said that an itinerary had been put together at the last Tree Alliance meeting along with some feedback from the surveys that had gone out. Mr. Alvord said that there had been some discussion of getting a small group together and said this should be done fairly soon and that next year's Tree Festival is planned to be held at Cranbury Park and there are two decisions that need to be made rather quickly. He said one is to choose a date and he suggests approximately two weeks later than what it has been the past couple of years and the other is that Wilton has expressed a strong interest in co-sponsoring and helping with the festival. Ms. MacLeod said for the next Tree Festival that there should be additional signage and advertising.

8. DISCUSSION - TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr. Alvord said that after the last meeting there was a final outline that he had e-mailed to everyone which no one has responded to. He said he is still willing to do sections 1 - 4 but still needs volunteers on some of the other sections of the plan. Mr. Nelson said there would be a pizza party at the next Tree Alliance meeting and said he would work to recruit volunteers to do parts of the plan.

9. DISCUSSION - TREE LINE USA PROGRAM

No discussion.

10. DISCUSSION - WICKET FENCE FOR WALL STREET TREE PITS

Mr. Alvord said that Mr. Viteretto had gotten pricing for the wicket fences and unfortunately came back too high at approximately \$20,000 and said he cannot justify spending one third of the tree planting budget on wrought iron wickets and suggested looking at some other alternatives.

Mr. Nelson said there is one tree outside of Meigas Restaurant on Wall Street that appears to be dead and asked if they were City trees. Mr. Alvord said that they are City trees and he would have Mr. Sotnik check the trees and if necessary, post them for removal.

Ms. Becker asked if during all the new development projects if language could be added to the contracts stating that the developers do not need to plant any new trees, but are required to install wickets on the existing trees. Mr. Alvord said on three of the new developments they are now in heavy LDA negotiations and this would be the time to do that.

11. LOOK-AHEAD

a. DPW Open House- September 27th.

Mr. Alvord said that the open house is scheduled on September 27, 2008 from 10:00AM to 1:00PM.

b. Third Annual Tree Festival

No discussion other than above.

12. DISCUSSION - NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES

Ms. Becker gave a brief report on last month's meeting.

13. DISCUSSION - NTA ACTIVITIES

No discussion.

14. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Nelson said there is still \$26,000 set aside for the intern and asked if it would be advertised. Mr. Alvord said it could be but going to the colleges and universities may not be as effective as if it would have been done two months ago because a lot of schools are

out for the summer and suggested contacting Mr. Donnelly for suggestions on other places to recruit.

Ms. Witkowsky asked about the status of the tree planting near the fence on the water department property. Mr. Alvord said that he has spoken to Mr. Hiscock and he is amenable to that and now needs to locate the positions and make sure Mr. Hiscock is comfortable with it, and submit a work order to Almstead Tree. She also said that there is a strip of land at the end of Dover Street and said that the association is attempting to take that over as an Adopt-A-Spot and asked if it was City property or water department property because there were some dead trees there that the City had removed. Mr. Alvord said that a property line check would need to be done. Mr. Sotnik asked Ms. Witkowsky to come in and see him and he would pull the maps and check the property lines on that particular parcel.

15. ADJOURNMENT

** CHAIRMAN NELSON MOVED TO ADJOURN

** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 7:25PM

