

Minutes
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
March 26, 2013

Attendance: Rich Whitehead
Gay MacLeod
Peter Viteretto
Christine Names
Rob Frazier

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

Neighborhood Liaisons: Ron Muller
Ann Marie Ekstrom

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman MacLeod called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

**2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF
FEBRUARY 26, 2013**

**** MR. VITERETTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. REPORT - INCIDENTS OF ILLEGAL CUTTING

Mr. Sotnik said that he is investigating a new report of an illegal cutting at 27 Weed Avenue and he will provide an update at next month's meeting.

4. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

- a. Main Street - 2 trees with planters
Mr. Sotnik said that he spoke to Ms. Fossella and she is still working on getting some new locations in the Main Street area. Mr. Whitehead asked if the trees will be in planters. Mr. Sotnik said "yes, or possibly in the ground depending upon the location." Mr. Sotnik said that Ms. Fosella is still checking on a few locations where there are trees that still have Christmas lights in them, and that she would

be getting back to him with those locations.

b. Highland Avenue

Mr. Frazier said that he and Mr. Sotnik will be staking the area tomorrow for the remaining 11 trees and that should complete the planting program. He said that there are also 2 trees near the Community Center that had sustained damage during the storm. Mr. Whitehead asked if Almstead Tree will be doing the replacement planting and staking the trees that were planted in the fall of 2012 while they are doing the new plantings. Mr. Sotnik said that they are waiting for the weather to break and that it will probably all be done at the same time.

c. Fort Point Street

Mr. Viteretto discussed possible alternatives to the English Oak tree and said that the standby is the Princeton Century and that they are available, but that they do not have the strict columnar form. Mr. Sotnik said that particular species is on the tree planting contract list and that there is a price for that, but for the other alternative species he would have to ask Almstead Tree for prices. Mr. Alvord suggested staking the trees that will be along the street and have Almstead Tree plant the trees and then make a decision on the corner locations and break the planting into phases. Mr. Sotnik said that there is \$21,000 available until July 1, 2013, and suggested that Mr. Viteretto provide him with a list of species and caliber of the trees that he would like pricing on. Mr. Alvord said that he and Mr. Sotnik will go over the planting plan and determine what can be afforded to be planted this spring, and he will e-mail it to the committee because they can possibly stake the locations and have some of the trees planted prior to the next Tree Advisory Committee meeting

5. INFORMATION:

Mr. Alvord said that he received an e-mail from Chris Donnelly stating that Norwalk has been approved as a Tree City USA and for the Growth Award again.

6. ARBOR DAY PLANNING AT JEFFERSON MAGNET SCHOOL

Mr. Alvord said that there was a meeting held last Friday and that everything is on track and the focus of the meeting was the program. He said that the next meeting is scheduled for the Monday prior to the celebration. He said that the Doubletree Hotel is sponsoring a poster contest and said it would be helpful if anyone could volunteer to be a judge. Ms. Names said that she would volunteer. He said the winners of the poster contest from each grade level will be part of the program.

7. THIRD TREE FESTIVAL PLANNING SESSION

Mr. Alvord said that the planning is on track and that the next planning meeting is

scheduled for April 5, 2013, at City Hall and that he will be sending out reminders this week and will send the agenda on Monday. Mr. Sotnik said that the advertising is moving along.

8. REPORT - STRATEGIC TREE CANOPY ENHANCEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Viteretto that it has been static this month and will resume activities next month.

9. DISCUSSION - NTA ACTIVITIES AND RECRUITING

Mr. Alvord said that the Alliance has been busy working on the Tree Festival. He said that there is a tent preparation meeting on Saturday, April 6, 2013, and that volunteers are needed if anyone is interested.

Mr. Frazier said that the tree farm is moving along and that the shed is going up and is currently on site being developed. He said that he has had discussions with Ken Hughes on how the grass will be maintained outside the tree farm gates. He said that there are trees that have been planted in private locations in pots and they will be assembled over the next few months. Mr. Whitehead said that there needs to be a plan as to what height the limb scaffolding will ultimately begin, when trees are being raised from seedlings, and as they are growing, someone should be doing the developmental pruning at least once a year. Mr. Alvord asked if there is still an intent to have a ribbon cutting ceremony for the tree farm. Mr. Frazier said "yes," but that the details still need to be worked out and that it will probably be done in the fall of 2013.

Mr. Sotnik said that Mr. Landau has also been checking into some of the information related to the signage for the Rosa Parks Arboretum. He said that there is a corporate group named Team Epic that is looking to do some volunteer work, and they are looking into possibly having them donate a tree to be planted at the Arboretum.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Viteretto reported on the Team Epic possibilities for donating and for the volunteer work efforts. Mr. Sotnik said that they are willing to possibly plant a tree, help with the signage or mulch the planting beds at the Arboretum. Mr. Viteretto said that he will e-mail Mr. Landau regarding what needs to be done with the signage and asked if the trees that are to be planted there are in the tree budget for this year. Mr. Sotnik said "yes" and that there is a total of three to four trees that will be planted and that he will make them a high priority and that this will be done as the first planting of the year.

Mr. Whitehead said that he had made a visit to the Oak Hills Golf Course and introduced himself to the new Superintendent and made him aware of the tree program and policies, and also invited him to attend a Tree Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Alvord provided an update on the request for proposal for the driving range at the golf course.

11. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. FRAZIER MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.