

Minutes
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
April 23, 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

Norwalk Tree Alliance: Dan Landau

Neighborhood Liaisons: Ron Muller

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Whitehead called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

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

Mr. Landau said that on Page 3, Item 9, Paragraph 3 to change "Landaeu" to "Landau"

Mr. Whitehead said on Page 1, Item 4a, Line 4, to add "Ms. Fossella"

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

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. REPORT - INCIDENTS OF ILLEGAL CUTTING

Mr. Sotnik said after investigating the report of an illegal cutting at 27 Weed Avenue it was found to be a private tree. He said that 1 Dawn Road there were two city trees of substantial size that were removed by a Contractor doing septic system work for the property owner and they did not have a permit. He said that they will be getting drawings back to him and once they do he will have them submit a replanting plan. Ms. MacLeod asked if they will be responsible for paying for the trees. Mr. Sotnik said "yes"

Mr. Frazier asked who determines the species that will be planted. Mr. Sotnik said that the property owner can make a proposal but that he usually tells them they have to work off of the accepted City tree planting list, and he and Mr. Alvord will look at the proposal and either approve it, or require them to revise it. Mr. Sotnik said that Eric Montgomery of the DPW tree crew had contacted him regarding a possible City tree that was removed at 38 Brooklawn Avenue and that he will be investigating it.

4. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

- a. Main Street – 2 trees with planters
Mr. Sotnik said that he has spoken to Ms. Fossella and within the next week or so he will be meeting with her to walk the area(s) where she has a potential for a couple of plantings.
- b. Highland Avenue
Mr. Sotnik said that the locations have been identified and will be done as a fall planting due to the availability of funds.
- c. Fort Point Street
Mr. Alvord said that the top priority is to get the trees staked and planted. Mr. Whitehead asked if the columnar trees will also be planted this spring. Mr. Alvord said “no” and will be holding off on those and will get the street trees done first because that will make a visible impact in that area, and at that point see what the availability of funds are. Mr. Viteretto suggested looking for grants for tree planting supplemental to City funding. Mr. Alvord said he would like to stake the area one week after the tree festival and contact Mr. Almstead to make him aware of what the requirements so that he can begin looking for stock.
- d. Rosa Parks Arboretum
Mr. Sotnik said that the five replacement trees have been ordered. He said that the Team Epic organization will be donating one of the trees and that the tree installation will be taking place on May 2, 2013, at 10:00 A.M. Mr. Frazier asked how much they donated. Mr. Sotnik said \$577.00. Mr. Whitehead suggested that Parks and Recreation pay for the replacement trees since the arboretum is located on school grounds. Mr. Sotnik said that he will contact Mr. Moccia.
- e. Strawberry Hill Avenue at Rome
Mr. Sotnik said that in 2009 there were 4 Sweet Gum trees installed in the north and south side of the island. He said when the First Taxing District Water Department was doing their project on Strawberry Hill Avenue, they were instructed to install the snow fences to keep the construction activities away from the trees. Their Contractor did not, and the activities had killed two of the trees in the north island. As a result, the Department has required the Contractor to replace the two dead trees. He said that he has received a check from the

Contractor for the First District Water Department in the amount of \$1,550 to replant the trees.

- f. Marvin Beach
Mr. Sotnik said there is one planting to do on Elliott Street but that he has not yet gone back to stake the location until the availability of funds are determined.

5. INFORMATION:

- a. Tree City USA Bulletin No. 37
Mr. Alvord distributed.
- b. Connecticut Arborist, CTPA, Volume XXIV, No. 1, Spring 2013
Mr. Alvord distributed.

6. ARBOR DAY PLANNING AT JEFFERSON MAGNET SCHOOL

Mr. Alvord said that the final planning meeting was held on April 22, 2013, and that everything is set. He said that the celebration will be held in the garden and that the seedlings will be distributed in the classrooms prior to the celebration. Mr. Sotnik said that Almstead Tree has agreed to donate a Red Maple tree and has also volunteered to bag all of the seedlings.

7. TREE FESTIVAL – MAY 11 CRANBURY PARK

Mr. Alvord said that the final planning meeting was held on April 22, 2013, and that he and Mr. Sotnik had gone over the final details this afternoon.

8. TREE CITY USA AND GROWTH AWARD

Mr. Alvord said that he has received the awards and they are mounted in the DPW reception area.

9. REPORT - STRATEGIC TREE CANOPY ENHANCEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Viteretto said that the next target is East Avenue from St. Paul's on the green to the cemetery in East Norwalk. He said that the point of strategy is to build the marketing plan and re-approach the property owners along East Avenue to fill in the gaps. Mr. Alvord said that it may be helpful to have Mr. Muller do before and after renderings like he had done for the Fort Point Street planting.

Mr. Viteretto discussed looking for grants to help supplement City funding and the possibility of submitting to Fairfield County Community Foundation for long term support.

Mr. Viteretto said that one other piece that hasn't been followed up on much is the Planning and Zoning applications for sustainability purposes and to ensure the tree can survive. Mr. Alvord said that he will follow up with Mr. Linnartz and Ms. Diaz of Public Works because they do all of the DPW Engineering plan reviews for Planning and Zoning.

Mr. Alvord asked if it would be an appropriate task for the subcommittee to review and revise the contract species lists for the tree planting contract in time for the next request for proposal. Mr. Viteretto said "yes" and they will take on the task.

10. DISCUSSION - NTA ACTIVITIES AND RECRUITING

Mr. Landau said that the Norwalk Tree Alliance is running a flowering tree photo contest and that Mr. Moss has provided some publicity. He said that there are two weeks to take pictures and that they will be judged on the Thursday afternoon, May 9, 2013 prior to the Tree Festival.

Mr. Landau said that the Tree Festival tent preparation session was completed on April 6, 2013.

Mr. Landau said that the Norwalk Tree Alliance was invited to exhibit on Earth Day at Fairfield University, but that it was not very successful.

Mr. Landau said that Almstead Tree has delivered the woodchips to the tree farm, but that they now need to be spread them, but were unable to do so because their equipment is broken. Mr. Alvord suggested that he contact Mr. Mocciae.

Mr. Landau said that he and Mr. Muller looked at possible signage for the Rosa Parks Arboretum for after the replacement trees are planted and that he will be putting a proposal together to look for a specific donor to install all new signage.

Mr. Landau said that REI has given a grant to the Norwalk Watershed Association in the amount of \$6,000 to plant trees along the Norwalk River Valley Trail. He said that Mr. Almstead is going to walk the trail and make some recommendations to the City.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Whitehead said that the tree pits on Washington Street are a tripping hazard because all of the dirt and mulch has been kicked out of them due to foot traffic. He said that he had contacted a company called Flexi-Pave, which has a product that is made of porous material that takes the place of mulch, stops foot traffic from compacting the soil in the tree pits, alleviates the mulch from being kicked out of them and eliminates the potential tripping hazard.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 P.M.