

Minutes

TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING October 27, 2009

Attendance: Don Nelson, Chairman
Rich Whitehead
Dave Tracy
Christine Names

Absent: Peter Viteretto

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

Norwalk Tree Alliance: Dick Aime (Absent)

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

Others: Mr. Vorio, Superintendant of Oak Hills Golf Course
Mr. Andronaco, Chairman, Oak Hills Park Authority

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

2. ANNUAL VISIT WITH OAK HILLS AUTHORITY (TOM VORIO, SUPERINTENDENT)

Mr. Vorio said that on October 8, 2008, there was a wind storm and some storm damage occurred. As a result, two beach trees had to be removed. Mr. Vorio reported on this year's tree management plan, and said that no trees will need to be removed near the restaurant. He said that there is a tree that was struck by lightning that will need to be removed, as well as a couple of trees that are a liability due to their condition and proximity to the cart path. He said they will be continuing their brush management program to improve air flow around some of the greens. Mr. Alvord asked if the trees near the cart path can be trimmed rather than removed. Mr. Vorio said "no" and that the trees are dead. Mr. Sotnik asked how many will need to be removed. Mr. Vorio said approximately six. Mr. Whitehead said that he would like to commend Mr. Vorio for his diligence in replanting the trees near the restaurant area and said it is coming along

very nicely. Ms. Witkowsky asked if the Contractor who constructed the restaurant is responsible for the cost of replacing the trees. Mr. Alvord said “no” and that it is not the restaurateur’s obligation either and that the property remains owned by the Authority, and leased out to the restaurateur.

Mr. Vorio and Mr. Andronaco left at 6:15 P.M.

**3. APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF
AUGUST 25, 2009**

**** MR. TRACY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF
SEPTEMBER 22, 2009**

**** MR. WHITEHEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. APPROVE PROPOSED CY 2010 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

**** MR. WHITEHEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. REPORT – INCIDENTS OF ILLEGAL CUTTING

Mr. Sotnik said that there is one potential report of an illegal cutting on Oak Hill Avenue that he needs to investigate and will have a full report at next month’s meeting.

7. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

- a. Van Buren and Stevens- Fall 2009
Mr. Sotnik said that he has received the permit from the Department of Transportation and that the trees have been staked, ordered, and should be planted within the next week. Mr. Nelson asked how many trees will be planted. Mr. Sotnik said eight sugar maple trees.
- b. East Norwalk- Fall 2009
Mr. Sotnik said that the planting has been completed with the exception of four trees on Strawberry Hill Avenue. He said that he has spoken to Mr. Bociek and the quality of the stock for the American Sweet Gum trees is not good at this time. Mr. Sotnik said that Mr. Overall selected American Sweet Gum trees for these sites since they are large planting areas and to diversify the species of trees being

planted. Rather than change the type of trees to be planted to a more readily available species such as an Oak or Maple tree just to complete the planting this year, the planting will be scheduled for the spring of 2010 when a better quality of stock of the American Sweet Gum trees can be obtained.

- c. Calf Pasture Beach Road, Phase II- Fall 2009
Mr. Alvord said that the planting has been completed. He said that Mr. Torre will be scheduling to remove some trees on the Taylor Farm side to ensure that the new trees have plenty of room to grow in a healthy manner. He said that the trees have been posted and no objections were received.
- d. 122 Murray Street
Mr. Alvord said that the replacement tree has been staked and ordered.
- e. Don Reid Memorial Tree @ City Hall
Mr. Alvord said that the tree has been planted, and the Law Department will be installing a brass plaque.

8. INFORMATION COPIES

- a. Arbor Day September/October 2009
Mr. Alvord distributed
- b. Tree City USA Bulletin 2009 Annual Report
Mr. Alvord distributed

9. UPDATE - FAILING TREES

Mr. Sotnik said that all of the trees have been replaced with the exception of Broad Street. He said that he has spoken to Mr. Bociek and he stated that when he replaces the trees on Broad Street, he will be mixing some organic material in the soil for all of the nine trees that were planted. Mr. Whitehead said that two of the trees along the cemetery should be replaced and three should be put on watch until the spring.

10. UPDATE - PEPPERIDGE FARMS TREE OFFER

Mr. Alvord said that he and Mr. Nelson had attended the ceremony at Farm Creek on October 2, 2009. He said that at the request of the Land Trust Pepperidge Farm had given them a check for the difference between the trees and shrubs that were planted on Roton Avenue, and what would have been available if trees would have been able to be offered to other neighborhoods'. Mr. Nelson asked how they will be using the funds. Mr. Alvord said that the funds were given to the Land Trust with no provisions on how the funds would be required to be used.

11. UPDATE – TREE LIAISON RECRUITING

Mr. Alvord said that Ms. Names had e-mailed the tree liaison recruiting flyer to all of the neighborhood associations, and that Mr. Moss had done a press release. He said that he has also sent the flyer to NEON to try and generate some interest in recruiting a tree liaison in the South Norwalk area. Mr. Nelson suggested tying the tree liaison recruiting in with Keep America Beautiful. Ms. Names suggested asking the presidents of the neighborhood associations to appoint someone as a tree liaison. Mr. Alvord introduced Jim McLoughlin as a new tree liaison for the northern section of the East Norwalk Neighborhood Association.

12. UPDATE - “MILE-A-MINUTE” VINE

Mr. Alvord said that no new reports have been received and that every report that was received has been investigated and none of the vine has been found. He said that no confirmation was received on the address on Blue Mountain Road where the vines were supposedly sighted. He said that CL&P had taken care of the ones on their substation property, and that the Seaport Association had taken care of the ones on Sheffield Island. Mr. Whitehead said that he had received three confirmations of the vine and that two were in Westport and one was in Fairfield.

13. UPDATE - URBAN FORESTRY GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Whitehead said that the application has been sent to the DEP, Division of Forestry. Mr. Sotnik said that he had contacted Mr. Donnelly and he has received the application.

14. LOOK AHEAD – TREE CITY USA RE-CERTIFICATION AND GROWTH AWARD

Mr. Alvord said that he has received the application forms from the Arbor Day Foundation and now needs a volunteer to put the package together. Mr. Whitehead asked if Mr. Aime had expressed any interest in putting the package together this year. Mr. Tracy said that he would speak to Mr. Aime.

15. DISCUSSION - NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES

Ms. Witkowsky said that the October CNNA meeting was cancelled.

16. DISCUSSION - NTA ACTIVITIES

Mr. Tracy reported on the Connecticut Urban Council Forest meeting that he and Mr. Aime had attended last week. He said the big concern is the Asian Long Horned Beetle outbreak in Wooster, MA. and the concern is that it could spread into Connecticut. He

said that the report is that there are 16,000 infested trees and they have already previously removed 25,000 infested trees.

Mr. Moss reported on the American Chestnut Tree and said that there are two parallel initiatives going on to resuscitate the tree. He said that the NTA has gotten involved at the request of the American Chestnut Foundation and had done a story in the media. He said that approximately 50 responses were received from people in Norwalk who thought they had an authentic American Chestnut Tree on their property. He said that most of the responses have been processed, and found six samples that may be authentic and have sent the samples to New Haven to confirm. He said that in the spring, seedlings will be available, and that the TAC would like to find plots or organizations that may be interested in planting a stand of trees. Mr. Whitehead suggested tying the planting of the seedlings into the Tree Festival.

17. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Alvord said that Mr. Whitehead has measured every tree pit on Wall Street and that Mr. Sotnik has contacted the vendor that Mr. Viteretto had previously contacted. He said that the vendor will be providing him with a price quote within three days for the wicket fences around the tree planting pits.

Mr. Frazier asked the status of the plantings on Highland Avenue. Mr. Alvord said that will be scheduled for a spring planting. He said that staff will be working with Mr. Frazier on finalizing the plan.

Ms. Witkowsky reported that the El Mexicano on Wall Street is hanging banners and lights from City trees in front of their restaurant. Mr. Alvord said that staff will investigate tomorrow.

18. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. WHITEHEAD MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7: 20 P.M.