



TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 27, 2022

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Dilene Byrd at dbyrd@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Attendance: Professor Kipp, Chair
 Richard Whitehead, Vice Chair

Peter Viteretto

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Professor Kipp called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

2. PUBLIC INPUT - GUESTS AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS MAY SPEAK TO ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA. (COMMENTS SHALL BE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN THREE (3) MINUTES PER SPEAKER.)

Ms. Grant said she and Mr. Grant are with Minuteman Land Services and are interested in what is going on with tree plantings in Norwalk. Professor Kipp said that the Capital budget funds have been used over the years for tree plantings and two (2) tree plantings cycles are done per year and they have averaged approximately 40 trees each planting cycle, but now that there is additional funding and we have the opportunity to make more of an impact in areas that have been devoid of trees, particularly in South Norwalk. We work with both the residents and businesses in various areas.

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF JUNE 28, 2022.

**** PROFESSOR KIPP MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.
** MR. WHITEHEAD SECONDED MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF AUGUST 23, 2022.

**** PROFESSOR KIPP MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.
** MR. WHITEHEAD SECONDED MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM - FALL 2022

a. Provide list of potential locations:

- i. TAC/DPW Plantings
 - Housing Authority Complexes
 - Schools - Fox Run, Ponus
 - Hunters Lane
 - Elmwood Avenue
 - Woodward Avenue
 - Plymouth Avenue
 - East Avenue
- ii. TMP funded planting - Wilton Avenue
- iii. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Initiative - DECD Grant – Planting Program Continuation

b. Replacements:

- i. Various locations - Working with Almstead

Mr. Sotnik said they are in the process of planting at a wide variety of locations and if all the locations are planted, there will be well over 200 trees planted this Fall. Professor Kipp said there was a meeting held three weeks ago and they have been collaborating with the Housing Authority regarding a grant we had received to do some additional work at the Children's Learning Center at Roonder Court, and they are very excited about that project. She said during those discussions they felt there is a need for more trees to be planted at their main office and talked to them about branching out from Roodner Court since that is where a lot of the efforts have been spent over the past couple of years, and there is an amazing collaboration between the two (2) Organizations.

Mr. Sotnik said that in the past Capital Budget funds were used for plantings and the intent of those funds was to do streetscape tree canopy improvement projects, but now with the funding from the ARPA grants they can do both streetscape and internal property trees, and the housing authority locations are perfect locations to plant trees in both the exterior and interior of the complexes. In addition, more trees will be added to the Dr. Martin Luther King initiative geographical area as well.

6. GRANT DISCUSSION

Professor Kipp said they completed one grant they had received, where Jessica Guy was able to geolocate and enter a very impressive number of trees this summer and she has sent in the final report for that grant.

Professor Kipp stated that she had secured a grant for the work at the Children's Learning Center at Roodner Court. She stated that they are looking to plant trees

around the perimeter of the area and if there are any funds leftover, they would like to purchase two maintenance free picnic tables for that area.

Professor Kipp said that when she gets the next list of grant opportunities, she will share it with the Committee.

7. UPDATE - ALMSTEAD TREE WATERING/MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Mr. Sotnik said that Almstead Tree had provided the updated watering schedule as they are required to each month and they have done a lot of watering during the month of August and September, but there are some trees that they will need to replace due to the weather conditions. He said they have been watering with watering trucks and gator bags and are in the process of securing a truck and installing a tank to make the watering easier for them in the future.

8. NORWALK PUBLIC SAFETY OPEN HOUSE - OCTOBER 1, 2022

Mr. Sotnik said the Open House will be held on October 1, 2022, at the Public Works Center from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Mr. Sotnik said that the Tree Advisory Committee will have a table with some displays and that he has invited Almstead Tree and Minutemen Landscaping to participate. He said that they are hoping to have a high turnout to make it a successful event.

9. 2023 ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION LOCATION

Mr. Sotnik shared the list of elementary schools that have hosted Arbor Day celebrations in the past and said that several of the schools have had two Arbor Day celebrations and suggested Rowayton or Silvermine Elementary School since the last time that they hosted the Celebration was in 2008 and 2009 respectively, and asked the Committee where they would like to have the celebration held. Professor Kipp said that Fox Run School is just behind being the last time they held the event was in 2011 and suggested that Mr. Sotnik reach out to those three (3) schools starting with Rowayton School since they have not hosted an event since 2008. Mr. Sotnik asked if the Committee would also like to consider having the event at a middle school, but after further discussion it was decided to keep the focus on the elementary schools.

Mr. Whitehead asked if the planting for the learning center at Roodner Court will be a Fall 2022 planting or a Spring 2023 planting. Professor Kipp said a Spring planting next year because they do not have the time or volunteer power for a Fall 2022 planting, but also the granting agency which is the DEEP requested that all entities that received that grant start on a certain date which is well after the Fall 2022 planting cycle. Mr. Sotnik asked the Committee if they would like to have the plantings done in phases because there is an additional 20 that can be planted and asked if they should be planted this

Fall. Professor Kipp said they should be done as two separate events. Mr. Viteretto suggested that the 20 trees be planted in the Fall given the summer we have had related to the lack of water.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Professor Kipp said she contacted a company to discuss lawn signs and she is waiting for them to send her a quote because she would like to have a sign installed each time a tree is planted stating that the trees were planted by the City of Norwalk's Tree Advisory Committee and to have a link on the sign letting people know how they can have a tree planted. Mr. Viteretto said a lawn sign is very common and suggested having a tag on a tree with the same information. Professor Kipp asked that Mr. Viteretto send her the information on the tree tags, and she will forward that to the company to obtain a quote. Mr. Viteretto requested that Professor Kipp send him their contact information and he will work directly with them to obtain the quote.

Mr. Viteretto said he received the planting plans for the Norwalk River Valley Trail, but needs to get the locations where the 10 trees that they received from the Norwalk Tree Alliance will be planted in the Fall.

Mr. Viteretto said that he had sent an e-mail to the members of the Tree Advisory Committee regarding the First Taxing District's pruning of the trees on the Green and said he is completely distraught by it and does not know how the First Taxing District could have approved it. He requested the members of Tree Advisory Committee look at the trees and see the magnitude of the impact. He also said he will be contacting the First Taxing District and will provide them with information on how to properly trim trees.

11. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. VITERETTO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. WHITEHEAD SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd