



**CITY OF NORWALK
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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**TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
August 22, 2023**

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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.gov to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Attendance: Richard Whitehead, Vice Chair
Cindy Cossuto

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

Others: Jeff Scherr, President, Norwalk Tree Alliance
Anthony Cossuto
Gay MacLeod

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Whitehead called the meeting to order at 6:14 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.)

There were no public comments this evening.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF JUNE 27, 2023

The minutes were tabled due to a lack of a quorum.

4. CAPITAL TREE PLANTING PROGRAM - FALL 2023 UPDATE

New Plantings:

- a. Development of Potential Planting Locations
 - i. Spring Hill Avenue.
 - ii. Senga Road.
 - iii. Morton Street.
 - iv. Richards Avenue.
 - v. West Rocks Road.
 - vi. Colonial Village Complex- Scribner Avenue-Suncrest Road.
 - vii. Mulvoy Street.
 - viii. Lexington Avenue.
 - iv. Lincoln Avenue.
 - x. Knorr Street.
 - xi. Ely Avenue.
 - xii. Trinity Place.
 - xiii. Flax Hill Road-Norh side from Taylor Avenue to Clay Street.
 - xiv. Arbor Drive.
 - xv. 10 Pond Ridge Lane.
 - xvi. Tree Management Plan Locations.

Mr. Sotnik reported and said the tree plantings on Spring Hill Avenue, Senga Road, Morton Street, Richards Avenue, and West Rocks Road are locations where there were curb, sidewalk and paving projects completed that will be followed up with tree plantings. He said they also received a request for additional tree plantings at Colonial Village, in addition to what was planted in the Spring 2023 Planting Cycle. He reported on the Tree Management Plan locations and said that a program that is part of the Tree Management Plan is being looked at to see where tree locations have been specified and those locations will be reviewed to see if they can be included in the Fall 2023 Planting Cycle. He requested that if anyone had any additional locations to forward them to him. Mr.

Whitehead asked if there is a count for the potential Fall tree plantings. Mr. Sotnik said that 150 - 200 trees will be planted in the Fall 2023 Planting Cycle.

Replacements:

- a. Various Locations- working with Almstead and Minutemen.

Mr. Sotnik said there are various locations where some of the trees that were planted in the Spring 2023 and Fall 2022 Planting Cycles that have not survived and he is actively working with both Almstead Tree and Minutemen Landscaping to have the replacements done and they have already replaced some of those trees.

5. UPDATE - GIS INTERN MAPPING OF NEWLY PLANTED (SPRING 2023) TREE LOCATIONS

Mr. Sotnik said they were very fortunate to be able to hire a GIS intern this summer. Between that person and one of the Engineering Interns, all 294 trees that were planted in the Spring 2023 Planting Cycle have been geolocated and entered into the GIS system.

6. UPDATE - ALMSTEAD TREE WATERING/MAINTENANCE SCHEULE

Mr. Sotnik reported on the watering schedule and said that July was a very wet month so there was not lot of a need for supplemental watering.

7. UPDATE – MINUTEMEN LAND SERVICES TREE WATERING/MAINTENANCE SCHEULE

Mr. Sotnik stated that as was the case with the previous Agenda Item, July was a very wet month so there was not lot of a need for supplemental watering.

8. TREE LIAISON(S) UPDATES

Ms. MacLeod said that this past week she and Mr. Sotnik met with two organizations located on Richards Avenue that have accepted the tree planting offerings, and one is the Temple Shalom Cemetery located at 143 Richards Avenue. She said there are some dead trees along Richards Avenue that will have to be removed, and they have offered to provide replacements along Richards Avenue outside of the fence. She said there is also a special request for one Cedar tree from the Cemetery Manager, and they agreed to replace the it. She had requested the planting of a Marshall Seedless Ash tree at the corner of West Cedar Street and Richards Avenue, but she and Mr. Sotnik had suggested planting a Red Oak tree, as well as planting Maple trees going along West Cedar Street facing the College. Mr. Whitehead said the Marshall Seedless Ash tree is the Ash Tree family and they are currently all under attack from the Emerald Ash Borer and suggested

not planting any Ash Trees and planting the Maple trees instead.

Mr. Sotnik stated that the Transportation, Mobility and Parking Department does have plans for the intersection of West Cedar Street at Richards Avenue, so any tree planting would have to be coordinated with their future intersection plans.

Mr. Whitehead said that Mr. Viteretto was instrumental in the tree plantings at St. John Cemetery and suggested getting him involved to assist with the tree selection so there is continuity down Richards Avenue. Mr. Scherr asked if there is an opportunity for the Norwalk Tree Alliance to get involved on the interior roadways. Ms. MacLeod said there is not a lot of room for plantings inside the cemetery, but there may be another cemetery in the area where trees can be planted.

Ms. MacLeod said the second location is at the Beth Israel Cemetery which is located at 225 Richards Avenue which is along Richards Avenue inside the stone wall and they had suggested tall trees such as Maple trees, Oak trees, and a Tulip tree, which is similar to what was planted at the St. John's Cemetery and there may be an opportunity for the Norwalk Tree Alliance to plant some trees there as well. She said at the back of the cemetery there is an open space, and they would like to have a Dogwood Tree planted. She said perhaps she and Mr. Scherr can have a conversation about some other planting ideas. Mr. Scherr said the Norwalk Tree Alliance is always happy to continue planting trees where they can and increasing the impact.

9. REPORT - NTA ACTIVITIES

Mr. Scherr reported and said they had their summer recess, but there has been coordination on their part and they have consolidated the list of trees which will help with the planning of tree plantings. He said they are also planning to do an Oktoberfest fundraising event, and that the next Tree Alliance meeting will be held in September.

Mr. Whitehead congratulated the Norwalk Tree Alliance for harvesting the first tree out of the tree farm. Mr. Scherr said they have now gotten approximately nine trees out of the tree farm which have been planted at various locations.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. MacLeod said there are concerns about the infestation of the Spotted Lantern Fly and asked if there will be any information shared on how to get rid of them. She also said that the Stamford Arboretum has terrific information on the removal of the Tree of Heaven (an invasive species) and the Connecticut Agricultural Department also has information on that topic. She asked if there will information shared on the removal of the Tree of Heaven. Mr. Sotnik said they have not so far, but that it would be a very good idea and DPW puts posts each Wednesday on their Facebook page and that would be a way to get the information out to the public and asked if anyone would like to provide him with the information, he will have it sent to Ms. Woods Matthews, the City Communications Director, to post. Ms. MacLeod said that she will send him some information and also suggested a brochure that

can be given to the landscapers.

Mr. Sotnik discussed the potential schools to host the 2024 Arbor Day celebration and said that Silvermine Elementary School last hosted an Arbor Day celebration in 2010 and that is the school that is next on the list, and that there was one at Fox Run School was in 2011. He said the parking lot at Silvermine Elementary School was just realigned and some of the trees needed to be removed and new replacement trees planted related to that project. Mr. Whitehead suggested to offer Silvermine Elementary School the option to host the 2024 Arbor Day event first, and if they decline, then offer it to Fox Run School. Mr. Sotnik said he will include it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Whitehead asked if either Almstead Tree or Minutemen Landscaping has provided a timeline as to when they need orders by for the Fall 2023 Planting Cycle. Mr. Sotnik said "no," but based on the preferences in the past from Almstead Tree, the sooner the better, and suggested having it to them by early to mid-September. He requested the Committee members to e-mail him their list of plantings.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** MS. COSSUTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dilene Byrd