



TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 27, 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: Erica Kipp, Chair
Richard Whitehead, Vice Chair
Peter Viteretto
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

Professor Kipp called the meeting to order at 6:02 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. MacLeod proposed two sites for tree plantings, and said they are both on Richards Avenue and are both adjacent to St. John's cemetery. She stated that one is at the Temple Israel cemetery located at 225 Richards Avenue and the other is at the Temple Shalom cemetery located at 143 Richards Avenue which is across West Cedar Street from Norwalk Community College. She asked what the updated process is to move forward with the tree plantings. Professor Kipp said once the forms have been submitted, the locations will go on a list of planting locations and Mr. Sotnik will do a site visit and review the area and stake the locations. Professor Kipp requested that Mr. Sotnik e-mail Ms. MacLeod the forms and said there is also a booklet that has all the species that are offered through the program, or a Committee member can suggest a species that would have the greatest level of success.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 23, 2023

**** PROFESSOR KIPP MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. CAPITAL TREE PLANTING LOCATIONS - FINAL SPRING 2023 UPDATE

1. Spring 2023 Final Locations and Count – 294 Trees.

- i. State of Connecticut DEEP Urban Forestry Equity through Capacity Building Grant- 31 Trees at Children's Learning Center at Roodner Court.
Professor Kipp said the Deep Urban Forestry Equity Building Through Capacity Building Grant was earned with the City of Norwalk in collaboration with Norwalk Community College and enabled the planting of over 30 trees at the Children's Learning Center and created an instant barrier for the kids to have privacy and she and Mr. Sotnik have great pictures of the event that they will share.
- ii. Rowayton Elementary School - Arbor Day Trees - 3 Trees.
- iii. Norwalk Community College - Arbor Day Tree.
- iv. Norwalk Community College - 24 Trees Along West Cedar Street Property Line.
- v. First Street- Fourth Street Area - 43 Trees.

- vi. Soundview Avenue - Cliff Street Area - 17 Trees.
- vii. East Avenue (3 various locations) - 6 Trees.
- viii. Gregory Boulevard and Ludlow Manor Area - 7 Trees.
- ix. Woodchuck Lane and Woodchuck Court Area - 78 Trees.
- x. Merrill Road - 4 Trees.
- xi. Hillandale Manor - 3 Trees.
- xii. Bayberry Lane - 3 Trees.
- xiii. Highbrook Road - 18 Trees.
- xiv. Staples Court - 6 Trees.
- xv. King Kennedy Complex - Chestnut Street - 15 Trees.
- xvi. Colonial Village Complex - Scribner Avenue - Suncrest Road - 26 Trees.
- xvii. 8 Various Locations - 9 Trees.

2. Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023 Final Count - 524 Trees.

Professor Kipp said that 294 trees were planted this Spring throughout Norwalk with a concentration in East and West Norwalk, and for Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023 there were 524 trees planted and everyone on the Committee needs to be commended for that.

Mr. Sotnik said there are still a few trees that need to be planted, but the list includes everything that has been ordered to date and that 524 trees planted is a new record.

3. Tree Planting Budget Balances.

Mr. Sotnik reported on the budget balances and said that \$180,000 was spent for Fall 2022 plantings from the APRA/DPW/TAC funds, as well as from other initiatives and grants, and \$200,400 was spent for Spring 2023 plantings which leaves a balance of \$319,805 in ARPA/DPW/TAC funding to be used by December 31, 2024, which includes three planting cycles. He said there are also funds available of \$157,000 from Economic and Community Development through the Martin Luther King Drive initiative grant for tree plantings within that grant area.

5. DEVELOPMENT OF FALL 2023 - SPRING 2024 TREE PLANTING LOCATIONS LIST

Professor Kipp said that the Committee members will be filling out and submitting forms for additional locations that are in need of tree plantings and they should be returned to Mr. Sotnik so that he can create a master list and once it is finalized, it will be discussed as a group.

Mr. Sotnik said the City is doing sidewalk and road paving projects in a variety of areas where trees can be once completed in the Fall 2023 planting cycle and requested that once the Committee members have their planting location lists prepared, to send them

to him so that they can begin planning for the fall plantings. Mr. Viteretto said the soil needs to be good so the trees will have a much better chance of surviving. Mr. Sotnik said that he has spoken to both of the tree planting contractors and told them if they see an issue with the soils to contact him and at times Almstead Tree has done some soil testing in the past. Mr. Viteretto said that the general contractor doing the road work should also be looking at the soil. Mr. Scherr said that the City has dug some holes for tree plantings for the Norwalk Tree Alliance and have also provided clean topsoil.

6. UPDATE - ALMSTEAD TREE WATER/MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Mr. Sotnik said there were no issues to report.

Professor Kipp said that Almstead Tree took the gator bag off the tree that was planted at her residence last season, but still has not put one back. Mr. Sotnik said he will reach out to Mr. Norman because they either need to provide a gator bag or watering of the tree.

7. UPDATE - MINUTEMAN LAND SERVICES TREE WATERING/MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Mr. Sotnik said that he spoke with both of the tree planting contractors and asked them not to just look at the trees that were planted this year, but also what they have planted in the past because they are responsible for the trees that they planted last year for a period of two (2) years from the date that they were planted.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Scherr thanked the Tree Advisory Committee and Professor Kipp on behalf of the Norwalk Tree Alliance for the recommendations for the donated books for the elementary schools and it was very well received.

Mr. Scherr said the Tree Farm located at Fodor Farm had it first Oak Tree that was home grown planted in Norwalk recently, which was the vision of many people of the Norwalk Tree Alliance, and there are seven others that will be leaving soon, and they are currently in discussions with Courville Nursery to continue that going forward.

Mr. Scherr thanked the Third Taxing District for continuing to fund the Grant for the Norwalk Tree Alliance.

Professor Kipp asked if anyone will be doing the GIS mapping this summer. Mr. Sotnik said there is a GIS Intern in the IT department, but is not solely dedicated for that specific purpose, but can be used periodically if needed, but if there is anyone who would like to volunteer, they are welcome to assist. Professor Kipp requested that Mr. Sotnik set up a schedule with the GIS intern to have some of the trees entered and she will also see if there are any other grants available, but it will not be for this summer.

**** PROFESSOR KIPP MOVED TO CANCEL THE JULY 25TH MEETING.**
**** MS. COSSUTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. ADJOURNMENT

**** PROFESSOR KIPP MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MR. VITERETTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dilene Byrd