



TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 25, 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: 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 6:03 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 MARCH 28, 2023

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

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. UPDATE – CAPITAL TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

- a. Continued Development and Implementation of Planting Locations List for Spring 2023.

Mr. Sotnik provided an update and said there are a variety of planting locations that have been identified for planting this Spring. To date, there are approximately 120 locations where trees have either been staked and ordered, or planted, including the ones listed below.

- i. State of Connecticut DEEP Urban Forestry Equity through Capacity Building Grant – 29 Trees At Children’s Learning Center At Roodner Court.

Mr. Sotnik stated the TAC has also received the DEEP Urban Forestry Grant that Professor Kipp secured on behalf of the TAC for the 29 trees that will be planted in the beginning of May at the children’s learning center at Roodner Court.

Professor Kipp said they had applied for the Urban Forestry Grant and received it almost a year ago, but it had been extended so the plantings will be done this Spring at the Children’s Learning Center at Roodner Court, and 29 Emerald Green Trees will be planted. Mr. Whitehead said the trees will provide a buffer to the road. Professor Kipp said in addition to the 29 trees that will be planted, three maintenance free benches are also being purchased.

- ii. Norwalk Community College - Arbor Day Tree.
One Flowering Dogwood tree is being planted in front of the East Campus.

- iii. Norwalk Community College – 24 Trees Along West Cedar Street Property Line.

Professor Kipp said that a few dead trees were removed along West Cedar Street near the Norwalk Community College and that Mr. Sotnik and Mr. Whitehead had done a site visit. Mr. Sotnik said that 24 Slender Silhouette American Sweetgum trees will be planted along the West Cedar Street property line.

- iv. Various Other Locations.

Mr. Sotnik said there are currently sidewalk projects that have been completed, or are under construction, and if they are completed before the end of the Spring planting season, another 20 - 30 trees could also be planted at more than one location in the City.

5. UPDATE – 2023 EARTH DAY EVENT ON THE NORWALK GREEN – APRIL 22, 2023

Professor Kipp provided an overview of the Earth Day Celebration and said that it was well attended and has grown since last year and she thanked Ms. Cozzarin and her team for coordinating the event. Mr. Sotnik said that three (3) Sugar Maple Trees were planted on the East Avenue side of the green and he thanked the First Taxing District for allowing the trees to be planted on the Green.

6. UPDATE – PLANNING FOR 2023 ARBOR DAY CLEAN UP EVENT – APRIL 26, 2023

Mr. Whitehead provided an update and said the cleanup will be held tomorrow and there will be volunteers from various tree companies as well as the DPW Trees Crews and will be cleaning the Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT) and the intersection of West Avenue at Connecticut Avenue. Mr. Sotnik said that Mayor Rilling will be stopping by to thank everyone for their efforts as well as the head of the NRVT. Mr. Viteretto asked if a press release had been done. Mr. Sotnik said that he has sent all of the information to the Communications Director so she will be putting together the press release. Professor Kipp said that a press release should also be done for the tree plantings that will be done through the Urban Forestry Grant and asked Mr. Sotnik if he would be the point person to reach out to the Communications Director. Mr. Sotnik said “Yes.” Professor Kipp said the press release for the Arbor Day Cleanup Event should also include the names of those companies donating their services so that they receive the proper acknowledgement. Mr. Sotnik said once he receives the list of the companies that attended, he will be sure to send it to the Communications Director, so they get the acknowledgment they deserve.

Mr. Viteretto said once the Cleanup Event has been done, there is an opportunity to work in concert with the State DOT to plant native trees in the area. Mr. Sotnik said there is a grant that has already been applied for to do some plantings along the NRV and once the area has all been cleaned up and planted, the two corners will serve as a

gateway to that area and he requested that Mr. Viteretto put together a planting plan to have executed in the Fall of 2023.

7. UPDATE - PLANNING FOR 2023 ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION - ROWAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – APRIL 28, 2023

Mr. Sotnik said the final planning meeting was held on Monday, April 24, 2023 and he and Principal Cummings have approved the program and that two trees will be planted and in case of rain, there will be a sample tree brought into the gym. Professor Kipp said that three to four environmentally based books will be purchased for each of the classrooms. Mr. Sotnik said that the Norwalk Tree Alliance has offered to purchase the books and donate them.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business discussed this evening.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd