

TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 28, 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.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Attendance:	Professor Kipp, Chair Cindy Cossuto Sonja Oliver
Staff:	Paul Sotnik, Deputy Tree Warden Dilene Byrd, Secretary
Others:	Anthony Cossuto

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 FEBRUARY 28, 2023.

**** MS. COSSUTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MS. OLIVER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. UPDATE - 2022 TREE CITY USA RECERTIFICATION APPLICATION

Professor Kipp said that Norwalk Community College was awarded Tree Campus USA again. Mr. Sotnik said that he has received notification that the City was recertified as a Tree City USA for 2022 on March 10, 2023.

5. UPDATE - 2022 TREE CITY USA GROWTH AWARD

Mr. Sotnik said that he received notification that the City was awarded the Growth Award for 2022 on March 3, 2023.

6. UPDATE - CAPITAL TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

a. Continued development of planting locations list for Spring 2023

Mr. Sotnik said there are a variety of locations for plantings and residents have requested locations on Merrill Road and the Marvin Beach area and they will continue planting this Spring at the remainder of the Housing Authority Complex's that were not completed last Fall, and there are also 29 locations for tree plantings through the Grant for Roodner Court. He also said that DPW has several curb and sidewalk construction projects in progress in preparation for paving where trees will be planted in the Spring and Fall of 2023. Professor Kipp requested that Mr. Sotnik keep the Committee updated as to when the projects

have been completed so that they can survey the area and make suggestions for the plantings.

Mr. Sotnik said in the Martin Luther King corridor there are quite a few Contractor yards and will be working with them to plant trees along those areas to provide a screening, but this will only be done for legally zoned Contractor yards. Professor Kipp asked if Evergreen trees will be planted to avoid the leaves. Mr. Sotnik said "Yes," but that he will work with each of the Contractors to see what they would like to have planted.

Mr. Sotnik said if anyone on the Committee has any other possible planting locations to contact him.

Professor Kipp said that she will be sending an email to Mr. Bovilsky regarding the Roodner Court tree planting Grant so they can coordinate the best time for that to happen. She went on to say that they have a commitment from Almstead for the trees and they have provided dates that they can be delivered.

7. UPDATE - 2023 EARTH DAY ON THE NORWALK GREEN EVENT - APRIL 22, 2023, 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Professor Kipp said last year there was a really good program for Earth Day that took place on the Norwalk Green and that it was well attended, so another program is being put together for this year, and that it should be another great event. Mr. Sotnik said it will be a perfect opportunity to try and recruit some new Tree Liaisons from the various Neighborhood Associations to build up the Tree Liaison list and he said that if anyone on the Committee is interested in attending to please join him.

Mr. Sotnik thanked the First Taxing District for allowing three (3) new trees to be planted at the Green as part of the Earth Day ceremony.

8. UPDATE - PLANNING FOR THE 2023 ARBOR DAY CLEAN UP EVENT - APRIL 26, 2023.

Mr. Sotnik said that he along with Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Viteretto walked an area on the Norwalk River Valley trail between the corner of West Avenue and Connecticut Avenue up to Union Park where the cleanup will take place this year, and are now working with the State of Connecticut to be sure they are in support of the cleanup. Professor Kipp clarified it is not an event for volunteers and will be done in conjunction with Tree Companies, Eversource and DPW.

**9. UPDATE - PLANNING FOR 2023 ARBOR DAY EVENT - ROWAYTON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - APRIL 28, 2023**

Professor Kipp said that this is an event for elementary school kids and they need to be cognizant on how many people are speaking at the event. She said in the past Eversource has donated seedlings, but she finds that it sounds like a good idea, but that most don't end up being planted, so she has proposed instead of giving out the seedlings, to purchase age appropriate books on trees, plants, or the environment etc. for the classrooms. Ms. Cossuto suggested giving used books.

Mr. Sotnik said the last planning meeting was held on March 24th and that it went well, and the poster contest judging will be held on April 5th at 10:00 A.M. and invitations are being sent now, and the school has requested that two (2) Yashino Cherry trees be planted.

Professor Kipp said that Mr. Whitehead came to Norwalk Community College and gave recommendations on where a couple of trees can be planted at the school for Arbor Day, but while he was there, he noticed an area along the West Cedar Street property line that will need trees so that will be another area that the Tree Advisory Committee will be responsible for planting. She said that one of the trees is being paid for by one of the clubs at the College and that it is an interior tree.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no discussion.

11. ADJOURNMENT

**** PROFESSOR KIPP MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MS. COSSUTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd