



TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 24, 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
 Richard Whitehead, Vice Chair
 Peter Viteretto
 Cindy Cossuto

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Professor Kipp called the meeting to order at 6:06 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 NOVEMBER 22, 2022.

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. UPDATE – CAPITAL TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

a. Development of Planting Locations List for Spring 2023.

Mr. Sotnik provided an update and said that 230 trees were planted in the Fall 2022 planting cycle and we will now need to assemble the list of possible locations for the Spring 2023 planting cycle. He said that we already have quite a few locations and had received requests from the meeting that was held with Economic and Community Development (ECD) prior to the Holidays. He stated that the maps have been scanned into the GIS and they are mapping the areas where there were tree planting requests. Professor Kipp asked if the requests for the tree plantings from the meeting with ECD is a Tree Advisory Committee endeavor or is it the City of Norwalk. Mr. Sotnik said that they have been given money through various grants and from ECD for tree plantings. Professor Kipp asked if the Tree Advisory Committee gets to determine where some of those trees are planted. Mr. Sotnik said "Yes." Professor Kipp asked if there is a certain percentage or dollar amount that is allocated towards the Tree Advisory Committee. Mr. Sotnik said "Yes," and that the Tree Advisory Committee and DPW Staff will be working with ECD staff to determine planting locations and develop a final planting plan. Professor Kipp asked when the tree orders need to be placed. Mr. Sotnik said he would like to start placing the orders in April so that they can be planted at the end of April and in May. He requested that Committee members have a detailed list of planting locations that can be discussed at the February meeting.

Mr. Whitehead asked if either of the tree planting contractors voiced any concerns over Spring 2023 plantings due to the summer weather experienced in 2022. Mr. Sotnik said he has not heard of any concerns and now that the drought emergency has been lifted, there is no issue with watering the trees, although residents should still try to conserve water as much as possible.

b. Available Budget for Spring 2023 (Paul).

Mr. Sotnik reported on the budget and said between the funds from Economic and Community Development and the ARPA funding for the DPW/Tree Advisory Committee there is \$305,327.75 available on the Almstead Tree contract, and \$214,180 for the Minutemen contract for a total of \$519,507.75 and the funds are available until December 2024.

Replacements:

a. Various Locations – Working with Almstead.

There was no discussion.

5. UPDATE - TREE CITY USA AND GROWTH AWARD RECERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS

Mr. Sotnik reported on the Tree City USA recertification and said that in 2022 the population for Norwalk was 91,194, and the total expenditure was \$888,074.08 which equates to \$9.74 per capita, and the requirement is \$2.00 per capita so we are well above the minimum that is required.

Professor Kipp said the Tree Campus recertification was submitted and should hear back on the Tree City USA and the Tree Campus within the next two months.

Mr. Sotnik reported on the Growth Award and said that 10 points are required and we had scored 15 points so we are in very good shape for that Award also.

6. PLANNING FOR 2023 ARBOR DAY - ROWAYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Professor Kipp asked if they are still on target with Rowayton School for the Arbor Day celebration. Mr. Sotnik said “yes”, and they are finalizing the date of the first planning meeting, and he has requested that Mr. Scherr is involved to represent the Norwalk Tree Alliance, as well as Eversource, Almstead Tree and Minutemen Landscaping and said if anyone on the Committee would like to be involved to contact him and will plan accordingly.

Ms. Cossuto joined the meeting at 6:15 P.M.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Viteretto said he is still trying to have approximately ten (10) trees planted on the NRV by the Norwalk Tree Alliance and he has received the plans from Mr. Yeosock and will be working with Mr. Scheer on the plantings. Mr. Sotnik said that Mr. Yeosock had informed him that they are also trying to get a grant to have trees planted, but if any information is needed from Mr. Yeosock that they should contact him this week due to the fact that he has resigned, and Friday is his last day with the City.

8. ADJOURNMENT

**** PROFESSOR KIPP MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dilene Byrd