

**URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**  
**AGENDA-SPECIAL MEETING**  
AUGUST 15, 2026, AT 9:30AM.  
CONSTITUTION PARK 201 CT-136  
NORWALK, CT 06855

Attendance: Peter Viteretto, Chair  
Amy Verel  
David McGoldrick

Staff: Sarah Cruz, Arborist/ Horticulturist

Others: Jeff Scherr, President, Norwalk Tree Alliance  
Tom Arbron, TokiSpirit

Attendees:

Peter Viteretto – Chair  
David McGoldrick – Commission  
Amy Verel – Commission  
Jeff Scherr – Norwalk Tree Alliance  
Tom Arbron – TokiSpirit

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting began at 9:31am, and all those listed were present. There was a quorum present.

**II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation this evening.

**1. DISCUSSION OF THE STROFFOLINO BRIDGE LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS**  
**PROJECT**

Mr. Viteretto gave background on the original planting project from 2014 which included tree plantings on each corner of the bridge.

The Commission walked the northeastern corner of the Stroffolino Bridge and discussed the recently cleared upper slope of the bridge abutting Constitution Park. Ms. Cruz provided background on why the clearing was done by DPW after receiving a request for tree trimming to improve visibility of the adjacent billboard signs and Operations cleared this corner rather than topping or improperly pruning the streetside and park trees. She reported that the area seemed to be taken over by tree of heaven but the previously planted Oaks may have been overlooked during the clearing.

Ms. Verel joined the meeting at 9:38am.

Mr. Viteretto proposed a vegetation maintenance and planting plan based on the surviving Oak plantings on this corner being removed. He explained that the existing invasive and less desirable vegetation will need to be managed before and after planting. The tree plantings for this project would remain the same variety of Oaks previously planted, and the Commission discussed potentially planting shrubs as well to establish an understory layer.

Ms. Cruz explained that any chemical treatments would need to be approved by the City as required by Ordinance and that there may be permitting requirements due to the proximity to the harbor.

Ms. Verel and Mr. Scherr discussed potential seed mixes and sourcing of seed to establish groundcover after managing the current vegetation.

Mr. Arbron joined the meeting at 9:49am.

The Commission walked the southeastern corner of the bridge along Veteran's Memorial Park to assess the standing Oak trees and surrounding vegetation. Mr. Arbron and Mr. Viteretto discussed what could be accomplished on this corner potentially through volunteer labor as well as donated trees and shrubs. Mr. Arbron said that he has been working with Courville Nursery regarding this project. Ms. Verel and Ms. Cruz discussed the potential for planting shrubs for the understory on this site as well.

There was a discussion on how the Recreation and Parks Department could maintain the area surrounding the planted trees to ensure survival, as well as potential ground cover establishment with seed mixes similar to the northeastern corner.

The Commission walked the southwest corner of the bridge and assessed the existing Oaks previously planted. Ms. Cruz stated that property line clarification is needed. There was a discussion of maintenance needs for the Oaks and how that could be accomplished given limited access, and would require ownership clarification. The Commission also discussed and noted the surrounding stands of Tree of Heaven.

The Commission walked the northeast corner of the bridge adjacent to the North Water parking lot. They discussed potentially planting additional Oaks at this location as well, pending ownership confirmation and necessary approvals.

The Commission discussed timelines for the project and next steps including property ownership research, feasibility of chemical management of invasive vegetation and a plan for procuring and planting the proposed trees. Ms. Cruz said that at least a portion of the project could be accomplished this fall. Mr. Viteretto agreed that phasing the project may be necessary but also allows the public to see progress and will have a strong visual impact to this area.

The meeting adjourned at 10:19am.

Submitted by Sarah Cruz