

**TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA
JUNE 24, 2025, AT 6:00 PM.
BY ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

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Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.



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: Peter Viteretto
Gay MacLeod

Staff: Paul Sotnik, Deputy Tree Warden
Sarah Cruz, Arborist/ Horticulturalist

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. MacLeod called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. MacLeod called the roll, and all those listed in the attendance were present. There was not a quorum present.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A. 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.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- A. Approve the minutes of the April 22, 2025, and May 22, 2025, Tree Advisory Committee meetings.**

The approval of the minutes was tabled due to a lack of a quorum.

V. REPORTS

- A. Tree Planting Program- Spring 2025**

Ms. Cruz provided an update and said as of last week all of the plantings have been finished so in the spring the tree count will be low as just over 50 trees were planted this spring, but are using all of the available funding in the capital budget and most of the budget was spent on the fall plantings. The remaining budget is primarily within the MLK corridor through the EDC grant, with just under \$100,000 remaining. Since there is such a big focus on the disadvantaged environmental tracks that include Hospital Hill, SONO, and Spring Hill, we will be focusing efforts on fall plantings in that area, and don't see any issue with being able to spend that remaining balance. As of July 1st the capital budget will be replenished for both DPW and Recreation and Parks capital budget, and since there have been some interns that joined the forestry team and will be on board through the fall, they will start responding to tree requests early, in mid to late July to get planting orders to the contractor and hope to hit the goal of planting 350 to 400 trees for the year. Mr Sotnik said the capital tree planting budget for DPW was approved at \$200,000, which is a good increase from previous years.

Ms. MacLeod said she is willing to work with the interns on the adopt-a-tree plantings.

Ms. Cruz said she did request a watering report from Almstead Tree or Minutemen Landscaping as they were getting plenty of water with the rain, but we will have the watering report at the July meeting.

Ms. Cruz said PlanIt Geo performed a tree inventory of approximately 4,000 sites in 2023 and has resumed that inventory with the new US Forest Inflation Reduction Act grant. As they move along with the inventory, they are collecting possible planting locations within the right-of-way. This will help them identify and follow up on locations much quicker than usual.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Rotary on Richards Avenue and Cedar Street

Ms. MacLeod said a rotary will be built after the Cedar Street bridge is completed at the Richards Avenue and Cedar Street intersection. She said she contacted Mr. Yeung from TMP to request that they incorporate greenery within the rotary. He was open to the idea and noted there may be a chance for public input. She should provide some suggestions, and he will keep her in the loop regarding when the meeting will occur. She asked for input from the committee and noted that the sightlines are key, so they will need to be a low type of foliage, which would exclude trees, and suggested low-growing shrubs and plant ground covers. The foliage will need to be hearty as it will receive no care. Mr. Viteretto suggested getting the plans and scheduling a meeting at his office. His issue is that the money must be spent on the soil to make the plantings substantial.

Mr. Sotnik said that TMP is putting the design plans together, but to Mr. Viteretto's point, soil will be key because the area is currently a road. As Ms. MacLeod mentioned, the project will start sequentially with the West Cedar Street bridge, which will be completed by November 30, 2025. Therefore, depending on TMP's schedule, any construction will most likely be in 2026 or later. He suggested that when the project gets to the 30% design stage, it would be a good time to start putting together a landscaping design and talking with TMP.

VIII. TREE ALLIANCE REPORT

There was no report given.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. MACLEOD MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd