

TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA
JULY 22, 2025, AT 6:00 PM.
BY ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

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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: Richard Whitehead, Vice Chair
 Peter Viteretto
 Gay MacLeod

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Whitehead called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Whitehead called the roll, and all those listed in the attendance were present. There was 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, May 22, 2025, and June 24, 2025, Tree Advisory Committee meetings.**

**** MS. MACLEOD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 22, 2025, AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MR. VITERETTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

On page 5, item VII. Paragraph four, add “said”

On page 5, item VII, Paragraph five, change “young tree training” to “developmental training.”

**** MS. MACLEOD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 22, 2025, AS AMENDED.**

**** MR. VITERETTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

On page 3, Item VII A. change “substantial” to “sustainable”

**** MS. MACLEOD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2025, AS AMENDED.**

**** MR. VITERETTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. REPORTS

- A. **Tree Planting Program- Spring 2025**

Ms. Cruz provided an update and said that Almstead Tree has confirmed that they are watering, but she has not heard back from Minutemen Landscaping, but she knows they have been watering because the trees they have planted look good. Some trees will need to be replaced due to the drought last year.

B. Tree Preservation, Flax Hill

The item was tabled.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

The committee discussed tree plantings in cemeteries. Mr. Whitehead said that, in general, when work is done beneath the tree's canopy, it is considered to be the tree's critical root zone. Work can be done within the critical work zone, and there is a direct correlation between the amount of disturbance and the work performed within the defined critical work zone. For example, if 50% of the roots were removed within the critical work zone area, the tree would likely have a 50% chance of survival.

Mr. Viteretto asked what specifications were used for the tree pits on East Wall Street so they could look at how the trees respond moving forward. Ms. Cruz said she has not seen the specifications for that project, but she will ask the staff at TMP to review them. She noted that DPW can potentially develop an actual standard.

VIII. TREE ALLIANCE REPORT

There was no report given.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. MACLEOD MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MR. VITERETTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd