



TREE COMMITTEE
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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON TREE COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 17, 2010
Minutes

Present: Jessica Kaplan, Chairman; Kate Throckmorton, Nick Lee, Paula Byrdy,
William Meehan, and Junius Brown
Also Present: Patricia Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs;

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kaplan called the meeting to order at 9:05

II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2010 MEETING MINUTES

William Meehan made a MOTION to approve the minutes of January, 13, 2010,
Seconded by Paula Byrdy and carried 5-0-0.

III. TREE WARDEN'S REPORT

Awaiting Mr. Lee's arrival to give this report (in Paul Young's absence), Chairman Kaplan scrambled the agenda.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- Nominations for Wilton Tree Steward 2010

Chairman Kaplan reviewed previously considered and newly considered tree advocates, which included Nancy Faesy, Halfdan Prael, Charlie Robinson, Lars Cherichetti, and Alice Levin. Ms. Kaplan will circulate this list for input from the members. The stewardship award will be presented at the Norwalk Wilton Tree Festival as it was last year.

Bill Meehan requested a statement which defines the standard of review that would be used to determine which candidate best meets those goals.

V. ONGOING BUSINESS (discussion of tasks to be performed)

Chairman Kaplan distributed a list of tasks associated with the various projects the committee is working on.

Projects 1 & 3, being Tree City USA/ Arbor Day Celebration and Go Green Festival, respectively, were discussed. It was determined that these two projects should be combined. Tree City USA designation has not yet been made official. Ms. Kaplan will continue to seek out Chris Donnelly to get a status update.

Previously, the committee was not inclined to hold the Arbor Day celebration as part of the Go Green Festival. After further consideration of the dates and evolution of the festival focus, it was the consensus of the committee to have the Arbor Day celebration as part of the Go Green Festival.

The Tree Committee will have a booth at the festival with handouts and an updated Tree Center Plan. Ms. Kaplan outlined the volunteer needs; two shifts at 2.5 hours each. Mr. Brown volunteered to take a shift. The Committee would like to secure the Brubeck Room at the Library for the Tree City USA presentation. Mr. Donnelly will be invited, but given that the festival is on a Sunday, his attendance is questionable.

At 9:35 Nick Lee joined the meeting.

Project 2, Tree Plan Implementation was discussed. Future donors need to be directed to select locations. There have been too many problems with donors picking the locations.

Kate Throckmorton is finalizing the rendering depicting Village Market with trees planted in front. She will coordinate contacting the property owners with Alice Levin.

Pat Sesto will get an update on the status of the veteran's memorial proposed by Bill Brennan.

Mr. Brown raised the idea of plaques to identify the trees, honorees, and donors. The problems with the plaques were reiterated by various members. Mr. Brown urged the committee to revisit this topic.

Ms. Kaplan indicated that letters of appreciation still need to go out and perhaps a certificate indicating the location and purpose of the donation should be included.

Project 4, Norwalk Wilton Tree Festival was discussed. The festival will be held on Saturday May 22nd, from 10-2. Volunteers are needed for tent assessment prior to the festival and for set up. Wilton is poorly represented in this task and the committee could use additional help. Mr. Brown will approach Kiwanis for help with this. Mr. Meehan will ask Rotary for help with tent set up and parking.

Norwalk Community College was suggested as a source of volunteers.

Project 5, Tree-Art Show was discussed. Invitations to 150 people and organizations were mailed out last week. Kristen Begor, Nancy Faesy, and Paula Byrddy have taken the lead on the project. Artwork, of various media, will be on display for the month of November. The opening reception will be on Friday, November 5th. It was suggested that a presentation be part of the reception, perhaps David Dunlap. Paula Byrddy spoke in appreciation of the assistance the

Wilton Library has provided.

- VI. **OTHER ITEMS:** 1) Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee: No progress
2) Input for Spring Conservation Commission Newsletter: Ms. Sesto will write an article on the long-horn beetle and the emerald ash borer.

Kate Throckmorton left the meeting.

III. TREE WARDEN'S REPORT

Nick Lee reported that 13 trees have been tagged as hazardous, mostly along Silver Spring Road. The full report is attached.

- VII. **ADJOURN** (next meeting: Wednesday, March 10, 2010)

The committee adjourned at 10:25 a.m.