

Wilton Tree Committee

Corrected Minutes

January 9, 2013
Town Hall Annex, Meeting Room A

Present: Chairman Kate Throckmorton; Junius Brown; William Meehan;
Barbara Quincy; Paul Young, Tree Warden

Absent: Lars Cherichetti, Nick Lee, Susan Diloreto

1. Call to order
Kate called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the November 14, 2012 meeting were approved.
3. Tree Warden Report
Paul gave the Tree Warden's report for both November and December. Paul reported that there is on-going repair of the damage from Hurricane Sandy. Power companies are trimming tree branches throughout town, aided by many sub-contractors. There is a huge backlog of work due to the storm.
4. Ongoing Business
 - America-the-Beautiful Grant Implementation Activities
Kate reported on her dialog with Chris Lavin (MCL Ventures) as the second landowner in Wilton Center to partner with the Town regarding the proper maintenance of trees on his property. Kate estimates that there is \$2000 left in the grant designated for this purpose.

Bill Meehan and Kate will work with the Pet Pantry to negotiate repair of and maintenance of a tree on their property. The estimated cost to remove the root that is girdling the tree is \$150 - \$200.

Improvements have been made to the web page. Kate proposed an addition to the website, and Bill volunteered to convert the information to a PDF file that can then be added to the site. Liz Larkin arranged for some adjustments to the TABS on the site that will make it easier to access the Tree Committee information. Nick is working on an article concerning the Emerald Ash Borer that will soon be added to the web site.

The committee inspected the white pine slab that will be the basis for the Museum in the Street panel. It was agreed that we would go forward using this slab for the project. Several design suggestions were made. \$1200 is available to complete this project.

According to Kate, the Committee has met the minimum requirement for service hours for this grant. We have a six-month extension to complete the project. Nick and Lars have been asked to update the tree inventory for the Center.

- Center Tree Plan Status
Bill was asked to write a press release capping our achievements and requesting new tree donors. Any new trees should be ordered by March 2013. Pat Sesto will be asked to provide us with a review of recent acquisitions of both trees and benches. Suggested locations for newly donated trees include more cherry trees at the Piersall Building and a replacement tree at the Pet Pantry location. The goal is to identify a total of 6 new locations for trees and 2 locations for benches.
- Membership Vacancies
Lars needs to be sworn in at Town Hall. Susan Diloreto will be asked to become a member of the committee, rather than to continue her observer status. Dick Ziegler, a possible candidate, declined to be considered as a member, as our committee focus is on maintenance and new plantings in the Center, and not on tree clearing ordinances. In that regard, a suggestion was made to invite a member of P&Z to observe the Tree Committee and become a liaison between the two Committees. If Susan wishes to remain an observer, then an invitation to join the Tree Committee could be made to the P&Z member.

5. New Business

- Norwalk-Wilton Tree Festival 2013
Reconsideration of participation was debated. As both New Canaan and Darien have now decided to join in this event, it was decided to commit to some limited participation. Barbara Quincy will attend the monthly planning meetings. The first meeting will be held at Norwalk City Hall on January 24 at 9:30 a.m. At a minimum, we will commit to a booth. Other venues that need volunteers are: sending out invitations, obtaining door prizes, assistance with parking and children's activities and securing some vendors from Wilton to participate. Unfortunately, the date of the Festival

– May 11, 2013 -coincides with the Wilton Garden Club plant sale. Barbara will contact Garden Club member Liz Craig to inquire about their participation.

- Arbor Day Planning 2013
Kate pointed out that as a designated Tree City the Committee has an obligation to have a public observance of Arbor Day. Kate will contact Woodcock Nature Center and Kristen Begore, the coordinator last year. The question was raised as to whether we are still a Tree City. It was also noted that the Tree City signs were never installed. It was agreed that we should at least put the designation on the Website, even if the Town declines to install the signs on the streets.

6. Other Items

- Kate collaborated with the Wilton Bulletin on article about the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer that was published in the Wilton Bulletin in November.
- A motion was made to approve the meeting schedule for 2013. The start time for the meetings will revert to 5 p.m. in March.

7. Adjourn

Chairman Throckmorton adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday February 13 at 4 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex.

1/21/13 – Barbara Quincy