

Wilton Tree Committee

**Draft Minutes**

June 12, 2013

Town Hall Annex, Meeting Room A

**Present:** Chairman Kate Throckmorton; Junius Brown; Susan Diloreto; William Meehan; Barbara Quincy; Paul Young, Tree Warden; Nick Lee (arrived late) **Absent:** Lars Cherichetti

1. Call to order  
Kate called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes  
Approval of the minutes of the May 8, 2013 meeting was postponed. Due to a computer glitch, the Committee had not yet received them.
3. Tree Warden Report  
Paul gave the Tree Warden's report for May. He reported on a property at 1 Tito Lane where the adjacent owners were in the process of clear-cutting along the roadway. Some trees had already been removed before he arrived at the site. The trees were actually on Town's right-of-way, so Paul posted the remaining trees and issued a verbal cease and desist order. After a 10-day waiting period that allowed for public input, he then re-tagged the trees, allowing the poorer specimens to be cut, resulting in only eight additional trees being removed.

Paul reminded the Commission that he has no jurisdiction over clear-cutting on private land, but complete jurisdiction when it comes to tree removal on town-owned land.

No penalties will be assessed on the adjacent property owner, as this was a first offense. Susan and Kate thought that the Committee should formulate a policy for penalizing landowners who ignore the Tree Warden's dictates. This policy would address the following: Under what circumstances is a penalty warranted, and do damages equal the value of the trees? Paul thought that \$1000 per significant tree would be a reasonable penalty. Another factor in assessing penalties relates to the fact that Tito Lane is designated as a Scenic Road.

Kate will follow up with the Conservation Commission regarding how the area in question is finished, and what our shared vision is regarding Scenic Road designations. Timing will be important, as

the property owner may want to seed the area as a lawn. Bill suggested that a written record be made and questioned whether the regular Tree Warden report was sufficient. Susan suggested that Paul write a letter recounting his actions. Kate will consult with Pat Sesto.

#### 4. Ongoing Business

- America-the-Beautiful Grant Implementation Activities  
Kate reported that the tree maintenance program in Wilton Center has been completed successfully.

The Museum in the Streets project has not been completed and some of the grant money (Approximately \$1000) will be forfeited. However, we have acquired a tree slab of significant age and Susan has called local nature centers inquiring about craftsmen who might help us complete this project. The Committee is still looking for a storage spot for the tree slab. Susan's barn is a possibility.

- Center Tree Plan Status  
Nick reported that all the trees are planted and thank-you notes have gone out. The Committee will look for additional donors for the fall. Peter Gaboriault is still interested in donating a bench for the Stop & Shop Center.
- Norwalk-Wilton Tree Festival May 11, 2013  
Thanks were extended to all who participated in this event. Bill noted that more help was needed for the tent set-up the day before the event. Barbara will continue to attend the wrap-up and planning meetings. Regarding participation in 2014, Wilton will commit to a joint table with the Conservation Commission, but beyond that, we are unsure of more involved participation.

#### 5. New Business

- Signs for Wilton Center trees  
Kate reported that the galvanized signs are not attractive, and are not holding up. Another type of sign is needed. Inlaid brick was suggested, as they are inexpensive and durable. More information is needed.
- Future Tree Steward awards  
There are no detailed guidelines for selecting Tree Stewards. We need to develop some criteria. Kate will circulate some material relating to this.

- Meskwaka Tree Project  
No one from the Committee is able to attend this event but the consensus is that we should get more involved with neighboring towns. (The Tree Festival is one way to do this.) Susan suggested that we reach out to New Canaan and Westport in particular, as they have opted to participate in the Tree Festival. We could initiate a joint meeting for information sharing.

6. Adjourn

Chairman Throckmorton adjourned the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

**The next meeting will be Wednesday July 10 at 5 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex.**

6/18/13 –Barbara Quincy