

Wilton Tree Committee

Corrected Minutes

September 11, 2013

Town Hall Annex, Meeting Room A

Present: Chairman Kate Throckmorton; Junius Brown; Lars Cherichetti; Susan Diloreto; Nick Lee; William Meehan; Barbara Quincy; Paul Young, Tree Warden

1. Call to order
Kate called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the May 8 and June 10, 2013 meetings were approved.
3. Tree Warden Report
Paul gave the Tree Warden's report for July and August. He commented that July was a very busy month and that August had very little activity.
As Paul had to leave early, Kate scrambled the agenda in order to discuss the Tree removal at 1 Tito Lane. Town officials including Pat Sesto met with Mrs. Saraiva, owner of the property, where broad guidelines were presented for reconstituting the town's right of way along Tito Lane. A copy of the August 28 letter from First Selectman Bill Brennan to Mr. and Mrs. Saraiva was given to members of the Tree Committee. The letter notified the Saraivas that they will need to present a restoration plan for approval to the Tree Committee at our next meeting on October 9.
4. Ongoing Business
 - America-the-Beautiful Grant - Kate showed a sample of the bricks that will be used to identify the trees that have been donated in Wilton Center. They have been engraved to indicate the name of the tree, the donor, and the dedication. Individual bricks are \$25. The total cost for the bricks is \$750.00.
Kate also ordered numbered metal tags, which will be affixed to the trees and will serve to identify them on the Center Plan.
Susan volunteered to write a news article wrapping up the project.
Kate met with Chris Donnelly in July and walked around the Center. Kate pointed out the maintenance that has been performed, and described plans for the future. Chris noted the new oaks near the library already need pruning and reminded us to be proactive, new grants may be available for future maintenance. This project will be officially closed out in September 2013.

- Center Tree Plan Status
The new bench for Stop and Shop is expected to be formalized and hopefully installed this fall. Two new trees donations have been received and the trees will be planted in October. Kate and Nick will walk the center to suggest locations.
- The Tree Festival 2014 planning
There are fewer individuals in Wilton willing to work on the Tree Festival than in previous years. Kate will call Liz Craig (Wilton Garden Club member) to see about their availability. Barbara is willing to attend the planning meetings but it is important to estimate town-wide interest and report to Hal Alvord, chairman of the Festival.
- Signs (galvanized) for Wilton Center Trees
The old signs will be removed when the new bricks are installed.
- Future Tree Stewards qualifications
Kate asked the Committee to come to the next meeting prepared to discuss qualifications for future Tree Stewards. Originally the emphasis was on tree protection, but a broader focus seems more appropriate.

5. New Business

- There needs to be a timetable for installing the new, pre-numbered tags. We have 200 tags. The decision was made to start with the trees on town owned property.

6. Other Items

- Emerald Ash Borer
There are new restrictions on the moving of firewood. The Borer is spreading and has now been found in Northern Fairfield County. Lars will be meeting with State arborists on September 12 and will have more information after that. The ash trees can be treated but cost estimates for a 40-foot tree are approximately \$500 for the chemicals. The treatment employs a tree IV or tree drencher. It is not a spray.

7. Adjourn

Chairman Throckmorton adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday October 9 at 5 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex.

9/23/13 –Barbara Quincy