

Wilton Tree Committee
Corrected Minutes
November 11, 2015
Town Hall Annex, Meeting Room A

Present: Chairman Kate Throckmorton; Lars Cherichetti; Susan DiLoreto; Bill Meehan; Barbara Quincy; Paul Young, Tree Warden

I. Call to order

Kate called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 2015 meeting were approved as amended.

III. Tree Warden Report

Paul distributed a 2-month report, which included 2 pages of dead or dying trees that the DPW needs to remove. There were 4 ash trees on the list, plus a 100 year old tree on Hurlbutt Street. The ash trees were on Hurlbutt Street, Belden Hill and 2 on Borglum Road.

IV. Ongoing Business

a. Center Tree Plan Status

- i. No progress on updating of the Wilton Center Tree map.
- ii. No updates on the Tree List.
- iii. The Nyssa tree replacement has been purchased and will be installed by Nick in the next few weeks.
- iv. There are no new donated trees. A reminder will be sent to Nick to remove the water bags around the newly planted trees in Wilton Center.
- v. 2 new benches were donated by David Panico. These benches have been installed, at Merwin Meadows and the War Memorial in Wilton Center.

b. Updating the Tree Inventory - There was no new update on the tree inventory.

c. Significant Tree List – the Tomasetti birch tree (10 Bhasking Ridge Road) was measured by the Committee after the October meeting.

d. Maintenance: Bricks and trees report – Kate will resend a list designating the responsibility of each Tree Committee member to check on the condition of trees and their bricks in their section of Wilton Center.

- e. Comstock Oak follow-up – The removal of the White Oak at the Comstock Community Center as requested by the Garden Club was not endorsed by the committee. It was the opinion of the Tree Committee that the tree was in good health and was not endangering the public. The committee sent a letter to the tree warden summarizing these findings, with a copy to the Garden Club. Paul will send a short memo to the Garden Club, noting he does not approved the tree removal. Related to this project, a Japanese Red Maple, which was represented as being protected in this renovation project, has been endangered due to a mandated ADA ramp installation, which requires a concrete base that may impact this tree. The tree warden's opinion was that the tree will probably survive this impact, but other discussion ensued. Lars Cherichetti, assistant tree warden will make a closer inspection and make a recommendation. In the future construction projects with trees that have been identified as preserved should have protection before construction begins instead of after the fact. Kate will draft a letter to P&Z requesting that the Tree Committee be involved in the process. The conditions at Comstock indicate that although various trees were designated as protected, no substantial efforts were made to do that before construction began.

V. Tree Legislation and Laws – none pending

- VI. Communications & Publicity – there was discussion of the article on the Emerald Ash Borer proposed by Barbara. Kate suggested adding a paragraph on preventative measures. Lars will supply a good photograph showing evidence of the EAB in ash trees. Barbara will see that the article gets in the Wilton Bulletin and the Villager. As Junius was absent, discussion of his article on tree education article was postponed.

VII. New Business

- a. 31 Old Danbury Road- Lars Cherichetti and Nick Lee, Assistant Tree Deputies, inspected the 36" caliper white Oak adjacent to road work required for the Station Place development. Attempts were made to work around the tree, however some roots were damaged during digging. They will write a letter to Assistant Planner Daphne White outlining ways to help the tree survive.
- b. 2016 Committee Elections – all current officers were proposed for another year and were confirmed. They are

- Kate Throckmorton – Chairman, Bill Meehan – Vice Chairman and Barbara Quincy – Secretary.
- c. 2016 meeting schedule was approved noting the possibility of changing the October 12 meeting date due to Yom Kippur.

VIII. Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday December 9 at 4 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex.

11/11/15 Barbara Quincy