

Wilton Tree Committee
Draft Minutes
March 12, 2014

Town Hall Annex, Meeting Room A

Present: Chairman Kate Throckmorton; Junius Brown; Lars Cherichetti; Bill Meehan; Barbara Quincy;

1. Call to order

Kate called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

The corrected minutes of the January 8, 2014 meeting were approved.

3. Tree Warden Report

Lars gave the Tree Warden's report. CL&P will remove 10 trees along the transmission wires by the parking area near Trackside. In addition, a private contractor wanted to remove town trees in the Old Boston/Seir Hill area. As the contractor had no formal plan, permission was denied.

4. Ongoing Business

- Center Tree Plan Status

The new bench for Stop and Shop has not been installed. It will replace a bench in serious disrepair that is currently in the adopt-a-spot across the street from the Stop and Shop Center.

There are 5 donated trees to be planted this spring.

The updating of the tree inventory with numbers and tree tags is an on-going project. Kate will deliver the new tags to Lars. The Commission checked the maps and determined that the owner of 12 Godfrey Place should be contacted regarding the planting of one of the donated trees. Kate will follow up on this.

- The Tree Festival 2014 planning

Barbara will be away for the Festival on May 17. Someone new will need to help staff the booth, which is usually shared with the Conservation Commission. Barbara will advise the Tree Festival planning committee that neither Rotary nor Kiwanis will be supplying volunteers to set up or take down the tents for the Festival.

Lars brought up the Gallery Show "A Celebration of Trees" which Pat Hegnauer is organizing at the Gilbert and Bennett Cultural Center to promote interest in Wilton for the Festival. The opening night for the exhibit, which will feature painting,

sculpture and mixed media displays, is April 22nd. Invitations will be sent to Town Boards and Commissions, and it is hoped that members of this Committee will be able to attend. The show will continue thru May 6th.

- Wilton Go-Green Festival May 4th
The Tree Steward Award will (tentatively) be awarded at 3 pm in the courtyard at the library under the sweet gum tree. Kate asked all Commission members to try to attend.
- Tree removal at 1 Tito Lane
The Town is still following this issue. The Tree Committee has no regulatory power and the follow-up is in the hands of the 1st Selectman. He enforces the Scenic Road Ordinance.
- Future Tree Stewards qualifications
The Committee is proposing broad award criteria. Suggested wording: "*A constant and willing contributor to tree protection and stewardship in our community.*" Several recipients were discussed. Barbara will send out these suggestions in a separate email.
- As of this date, letters have not been sent out requesting additional tree planting locations on private land in the Center. Bill suggested that the recently planted trees need to be assessed for damage due to the extreme weather this winter.
- Wilton Campus (Stop & Shop complex) is no longer using the maintenance company that did such a poor job pruning the trees in the parking lot. The lights will be removed on the existing trees, and the management indicated to Kate that they would like to work with us in the future regarding care of the trees.

5. New Business

Kate and Pat submitted a letter to the CL&P pruning hearing stating the position of the Committee regarding the changes in their policies pertaining to tree pruning and tree removal along power lines.

6. Adjourn

Chairman Throckmorton adjourned the meeting at 5:55 pm.

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

3/20/14 Barbara Quincy