

TREE COMMITTEE  
Telephone (203) 563-0180  
Fax (203) 563-0284



TOWN HALL  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

**WILTON TREE COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10, 2008 – 8:00 A.M.**  
**TOWN HALL ANNEX - MEETING ROOM "A"**

**Minutes**

In attendance: Jessica Kaplan, Chairman; Paula Byrdy; Kate Throckmorton, Nick Lee, Junius Brown

Absent: William Meehan (noticed of intended absence)

Also present: Patricia Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Kaplan called the meeting to order at 8:08.

**II. MEETING SCHEDULE**

Nick Lee made a MOTION to accept the 2009 meeting schedule as submitted, Seconded by Junius Brown, and carried 5-0-0.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

Junius Brown stated he followed up with the Westport Garden Club regarding their initiative "Greening of the Post Road." The contact person is Wynn Hermann, 227-0243. Chairman Kaplan will contact Ms. Hermann to see what lessons we can learn from their experience. One specific question will be what considerations have to be made to plant in a State right-of-way. This will be relevant as the work of the Tree Committee expands to Route 7.

Paula Byrdy described a recent presentation to the Wilton Garden Club by Doug Tallamy, author of "Bringing Home Nature" and a professor at the University of Delaware. It was suggested that Mr. Tallamy be considered as a potential speaker in Wilton again.

Byrdy also referenced a book by CT DEP employee, Peter Piccone, "Wildlife is My Passion". He too, should be considered for a future program.

Chairman Kaplan raised the idea of planning for an Arbor Day program. She suggested an art show at the library that is tree-themed. Kaplan is working with the library to gauge interest and availability.

#### IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

##### a. Implementation of Tree Plan – Status

Kaplan has contacted donors to update them on the planting schedule.

No press release or letter to the editor has been written. Ms. Sesto conveyed the content of conversations with Brian Shea of the Bulletin who stated that neither the planting of each tree nor the first meeting of the committee would be considered newsworthy.

In response to discussion regarding maintenance of tree donation records, Brown volunteered to create a spread sheet. Kaplan will forward the information she has to assist him.

Throckmorton suggested the committee work towards having donations made without specific locations tied to the donation. Trouble has arisen trying to meet the wishes of donors.

##### b. Village Market Building

Nick Lee reported on conversations with "Nancy" and Peter Keating of the Village Market. As tenants they are highly supportive of the plan to plant in front of their store. They do not, however, have any meaningful influence with the property owners to persuade them to allow the planting.

Sesto stated that she has left a message for one of the owners, David Piersall, to see if further discussion would be fruitful.

##### c. Norwalk Tree Festival

Byrdy reported that she was unable to get a firm estimate of the cost to partner with Norwalk in the Tree Festival. She speculated that the costs would be limited to signs and tables. She also reported that the Wilton Garden Club has expressed its support of the proposed partnership.

Sesto indicated that the town's insurance company responded that we would be covered for this event just like any other.

Lee agreed to join Byrdy at the next Tree Festival meeting in January.

d. Tree City, USA designation

Kaplan restated the need for Wilton to adopt a tree ordinance in order to qualify as a Tree City, USA. Throckmorton expressed her opinion that the sample ordinance from Greenwich was not applicable to Wilton as it was too urban focused. She stated Ridgefield's was better suited to our conditions.

Discussion ensued regarding the purpose of the ordinance needed by Tree City, USA and how the town could fulfill that. The conclusion was Wilton's ordinance would not function to create new regulations; rather it would assemble in one document the various tree related activities from this committee, the tree warden, Parks & Rec, and DPW.

Byrdy will distribute the draft tree ordinance that was prepared by Throckmorton, Sesto, Carol Russell, and others in 1999.

Throckmorton will assist Kaplan in drafting an updated version.

e. Other

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kaplan stated that she forwarded minor corrections to Karen DeSantis.

Lee made a MOTION to accept the minutes of November 12, 2008, Seconded by Throckmorton, and carried 5-0-0.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:55.