

TREE COMMITTEE
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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON TREE COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, January 14, 2009

Minutes

In attendance: Chairman Jessica Kaplan, Junius Brown, Paula Byrdey, Nick Lee, William Meehan, Kate Throckmorton

Also Present: Patricia Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kaplan called the meeting to order at 8:05.

II. NEW BUSINESS

Nick Lee made a MOTION to accept the minutes, seconded by Kate Throckmorton, and carried 6-0-0.

Paula Brydy announced that the photos of trees from the Garden Club's 2007 "Wonderous Tree" contest have been posted on the town's website.

Chairman Kaplan updated the members regarding the concept of hosting an art show at the library. The show would be multi-media and would encourage participation by a variety of groups including the schools. The library is booked effectively through to 2010. The Tree Committee would be responsible for assembling the works and "Ed", a library volunteer, would be in charge of mounting the exhibits.

The members remain supportive of this concept and asked Chairman Kaplan to secure a date. Groups to be invited include the Wilton Arts Council, Silvermine Art Guild, Ridgefield Guild of Artists, and Weir Farm. A notice should be placed in the paper to provide advance notice to interested artists.

Kate Throckmorton suggested the Committee focus on one major project each year. Kaplan responded with her desire to have this committee establish specific annual goals such as the one big project, publish a targeted number of articles, etc. A discussion on setting goals will be included on the February agenda.

III. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. Implementation of Tree Plan – Status

Junius Brown stated the importance of properly recognizing the donors. He conceptually supports plaques. Sesto retold her experience regarding the expense of plaques, which was disproportionately high as compared to the cost of the tree itself and there may be issues with long term maintenance. Byrdy raised concerns with the appearance of so many markers around the town center. Lee suggested a map identifying each tree by number and a corresponding list of donors and honorees. Discussion ensued.

There was consensus that framed certificates be issued to donors commemorating their gift and honoree; the list of donations be posted, along with a map, on the town's website; and a aesthetically appropriate list be displayed in town hall. Brown will approach Bill Brennan regarding permission to display the list in the main Town Hall.

At the last meeting a Letter to the Editor was requested thanking donors and setting forth donation cut off dates for spring and fall plantings. Kaplan submitted this letter and it was printed in the Bulletin. Due to a bad address, the Villager did not receive the letter.

A newly compiled spreadsheet listing the donated trees and supporting information was prepared by Brown. Brown will be the steward of that list and committee members were asked to relay corrections to him.

b. Village Market Building

Lee spoke to Judy Ruttkamp, Piersall family member, to see if she had any thoughts regarding the lack of cooperation to plant the trees in front of Village Market. He has not yet followed up with her.

c. Norwalk Tree Festival

Byrdy reported that David Tracy, Norwalk Tree Festival representative, expressed enthusiasm regarding Wilton's participation in the festival. A working meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2009, 8:30 a.m. @ the Norwalk City Hall. Lee, Throckmorton, Kaplan, Byrdy, and Sesto will attend. The Festival will be May 16, 2009 at Cranberry Park.

d. Tree City, USA designation

Kaplan and Throckmorton have not yet met to work on an ordinance. Throckmorton stated she had reviewed Ridgefield's ordinance and believes it is generally applicable to Wilton. She asked Sesto to forward Wilton's description of the Tree Warden's duties and copies of documents associated with Wilton's last attempt at a tree ordinance.

e. Other

Kaplan reported on a conversation with Lars Cherichetti suggesting he become an assistant Tree Warden to Paul Young. Mr. Cherichetti subsequently spoke to Mr. Young. No conclusion has been reached.

Possible future presentations were discussed. Notable Trees, Highstead Arboretum, and historic trees were suggested topics.

The next committee meeting is February 11, 2009.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:55, Lee made a MOTION to adjourn, seconded by Byrdy, and carried 6-0-0.