

TREE COMMITTEE
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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON TREE COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2009

Minutes

In attendance: Chairman Jessica Kaplan, Junius Brown, Nick Lee,
William Meehan

Also Present: Patricia Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs, Karen DeSantis,
Administrative Secretary, and Paul Young, Tree Warden

Not Present: Paula Byrdy and Kate Throckmorton (noticed of intended absence)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kaplan called the meeting to order at 8:10.

II. NEW BUSINESS

a. Arbor Day 2009 Plans

Jessica Kaplan stated that Paula Byrdy contacted the Wilton Library about working with it on an Arbor Day celebration. The library celebrates Earth Day, not Arbor Day, but indicated that it would be pleased to allow us to provide a tree focus to complement their other activities. Both holidays fall in the same week in April, with Earth Day the 22nd and Arbor Day the 24th. Ms. Kaplan wasn't clear on what activities/programs the Library usually offers for Earth Day so she would investigate further. She asked the Committee to suggest activities for the Library to honor for Arbor Day.

Ms. Kaplan asked the Committee to submit nominations for the Tree Steward for 2009.

William Meehan recapped last year's Earth Day activities at the Library.

III. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. Implementation of Tree Plan

Junius Brown distributed an updated "table" to the Committee.

The Committee reviewed the current status of the tree planting table.

b. Village Market

Mr. Lee reported that he had attempted to speak with a Piersall family member but hadn't made progress at this time.

Ms. Sesto indicated that she had made attempts to schedule a meeting with Vidi Piersall but had not had any response. She noted that the streetscape of the Market will, in short order, become distinct in that it won't have any trees when the surrounding properties do.

Mr. Lee stated that he would continue to try to make contact.

Ms. Kaplan concurred with Ms. Sesto that the Committee needs to inform the donors who requested that their trees be planted at the Village Market of the lack of authorization from property owners and ask if they would like to wait to see if progress can be made or if they would prefer to select another location for the trees purchased.

c. SNET Building

Ms. Sesto reported that no one has responded to the letter she sent. She offered to continue pursuing the cause.

d. Spring planting

Ms. Sesto suggested focusing on planting the donated trees. It was resolved that planting should take place on Arbor Day. Nick Lee, Kate Throckmorton, and Pat Sesto will organize this.

e. Promoting new donations

Ms. Kaplan felt that the planting of the trees will inspire more donors. Ms. Sesto suggested that a Tree Plan poster be displayed at the Garden Club annual plant sale.

Mr. Brown informed the Committee that he had spoken with Bill Brennan concerning a plaque at the Town Hall to commemorate the donations. He stated that Mr. Brennan was agreeable.

Ms. Kaplan suggested framing a paper document listing the donors that could easily be revised as more donations are accepted and possibly a map indicating where trees had been placed. Ms. Kaplan will work on a document to pass on to Mr. Meehan. Mr. Meehan will seek assistance from Paul's Prosperous Printing to raise the quality of the document.

f. Norwalk-Wilton Tree Festival

Ms. Kaplan reported that a meeting took place last month and another is scheduled for tomorrow. She reminded the Committee that the festival will be on May 16th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Cranbury Park in Norwalk.

Ms. Kaplan explained that she is trying to put together a budget to participate in the festival so that she can approach possible sponsors for the event. A mission statement is also

forthcoming and that would be presented to the potential donors.

The Committee discussed possible donors and decided that a budget would need to be provided prior to soliciting donations.

Ms. Sesto stated that the City of Norwalk has the capability to make signs but the Town of Wilton would need to pay for some supplies. It is unclear at this point what the cost will be and the Norwalk representative will give Ms. Sesto and Ms. Throckmorton a listing of past expenses to help develop a budget.

g. Tree City, USA designation

Ms. Kaplan stated that she had forwarded information to Kate Throckmorton but needs to follow up with her.

h. Other

Ms. Kaplan suggested that the Committee review goals.

Mr. Lee suggested visiting Highstead in Redding. With the consensus of the commission, Mr. Lee will seek to arrange a tour of Highstead Arboretum for the June 10th meeting and if space allows, others, including the Garden Club, will be invited.

Mr. Lee offered to contact Highstead to see if they would be interested in having a booth at the Tree Festival.

Ms. Sesto offered to contact the Finks to see if they would like to participate in the Festival.

IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. Other -

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

William Meehan MOTIONED to approve the minutes of January 14, 2009, SECONDED by Nick Lee and carried 4-0-0.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00, Jessica Kaplan made a MOTION to adjourn, seconded by Nick Lee, and carried 4-0-0.

Respectfully,

Karen DeSantis
Recording Secretary