



TREE COMMITTEE
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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON TREE COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, April 8, 2009

Minutes

In attendance: Chair Jessica Kaplan, Junius Brown, Paula Byrdy, William Meehan, Kate Throckmorton
Also Present: Guest - Russell Andrew of Care of Trees Company

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. NEW BUSINESS

Bill Meehan made a MOTION to accept the minutes, seconded by Kate Throckmorton, and carried 5-0-0.

- a. Arbor Day Celebration - April 19, 3:15 to 4:30 in the Brubeck Room at the Wilton Library
Jessica Kaplan confirmed plans for the Arbor Day celebration in conjunction with Earth Day at the Wilton Library. The event will honor donors of trees for Wilton Center and include a proclamation by First Selectman Bill Brennan. David Sanders of Wilton will speak on "Native Trees in the Connecticut Landscape" and Bill Meehan has tentatively agreed to talk about the Tree Committee, its goals and accomplishments. The audience is also invited to celebrate the planting of another tree in the Center.
Note: Shovels must be collected for the planting.

III. ONGOING BUSINESS

- a. Implementation of Tree Plan – Status

A total of 22 trees have been donated for Wilton Center; 12 have been confirmed and are ready for planting.

Pearsall Building - The corner at the Pearsall Building could accommodate 4 small trees, while 3 crabapples could be placed at the Pearsall property opposite the Wilton Bank. Kate Throckmorton will call the property owner and Jessica will call Susan Wilderding.

Village Market Building - Alice Levin would like a schematic of the trees and site plan before discussing planting at the Village Market. Kate Throckmorton will provide one.

Luca's Parking Lot - Jessica Kaplan will call Lee Wilson, owner of the property. He wants to look over the site before agreeing to a tree planting.

Old Ridgefield and Center Roads - Jim Mantera is the owner and should be contacted.

- b. Norwalk Tree Festival - May 16, 11am to 3pm at Cranbury Park

Plans for the Tree Festival are progressing well. Wilton merchants have been generous in donations, with Webster Financial Services contributing a major gift. Food donations are still needed, per Paula Byrdy. A banner in Wilton Center, donated by East Coast Signs, should be

put up about 10 days before the event, perhaps by May 5th. Signs at Wilton Town Hall, High School, and Wilton Center should go up by May 1st, per Kate Throckmorton. Junius Brown will ask that Wilton Kiwanis support the set-up and clean-up on Friday and Saturday at the Festival and Bill Meehan will request help from the Rotary Club. Bill Brennan will present the Wilton Tree Steward Award to Pat Sesto at the Tree Festival.

c. Tree City, USA designation

Requirements for Tree City designation were reviewed: Tree Ordinance; annual Arbor Day Celebration; official Tree Committee; Tree Management Plan; per capita budget expenditure on trees.

The Tree Ordinance drafted by Jessica Kaplan and Kate Throckmorton was reviewed. Bill Meehan warned that the infringements resulting in a \$50 fine are too broad, it could never be imposed. He also questioned inclusion of clauses referencing trees or shrubs on private property that may pose a public hazard. Since such items are covered by the State Statute regarding Tree Wardens, it was agreed they not be included in the local Tree Ordinance.

d. Other

Paula Byrdy asked if solicitation of further donations of trees for Wilton Center should be considered. Kate Throckmorton responded that is not necessary currently, since more plantings would depend upon taking down designated trees.

The next committee meeting is May 13, 2009.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00am, Bill Meehan made a MOTION to adjourn, seconded by Paula Byrdy, and carried 5-0-0.

Submitted by Paula Byrdy
April 13, 2009