



TREE COMMITTEE
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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON TREE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

Minutes

In attendance: Chair Jessica Kaplan, Junius Brown, Paula Byrdy, Kate Throckmorton

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Chairman Kaplan scrambled the agenda.

II. NEW BUSINESS

- a. United Nations' Billion Tree Campaign – Rebecca Craig, WHS

Chairman Kaplan introduced Rebecca Craig.

Ms. Craig described the function of the campaign and the history of how it came to be.

Ms. Craig stated that the goal of the campaign is to plant one billion trees worldwide and she wants to participate by planting one thousand trees in Wilton. She continued to say that she had raised money from a bake sale this summer and has contacted several organizations who expressed an interest in participating.

Ms. Craig further explained that she would like to plant trees native to Connecticut and will inquire with a local nursery for guidance. Thus far, she has raised \$100.00 from the bake sale.

Ms. Byrdy urged Ms. Craig to be aware and consider protection of the trees in order for them to survive. She expressed her appreciation for the enthusiasm and commitment that Ms. Craig has offered and suggested that the Committee participate.

A discussion ensued.

Ms. Craig explained that she envisions having trees planted on private properties, schools

and public properties and that planting of the trees could in part be accomplished by high school students and the property owners themselves. She sees this as a two-year project.

Mr. Brown suggested that the logistics be worked so that when donations came in there would be a plan in place to readily act on that donation.

Ms. Byrdy advised Ms. Craig to publicize the first plantings to attract attention to the campaign and increase participation. Ms. Byrdy added that Committee did not have funds to participate financially but she felt that it would be feasible to participate in other ways.

Ms. Byrdy offered to supply Ms. Craig with a list of tree companies that may be willing to donate some trees. She stated that the Campaign is welcome to participate in the National Arbor Day next April.

Chairman Kaplan stated that Committee would be interested in supporting the Campaign.

Mr. Brown suggested that a written request for support be submitted to him to give to the Kiwanis Club and Ms. Sesto suggested contacting the Rotary Club.

Ms. Byrdy stated that the Garden Club would be interested in supporting the campaign also and suggested to Ms. Craig that she contact local nonprofit organizations to partner with to help handle to donations.

Chairman Kaplan thanked Ms. Craig for coming to the meeting and presenting her cause.

b. Wilton Center Benches

Ms. Sesto reported that she had met with Bill Brennan recently and that he had expressed his desire to install benches in Wilton Center and have this committee oversee the project in connection with the trees.

A discussion ensued.

The Committee agreed to take on the project but would first need to work out details concerning maintenance going forward.

Ms. Sesto excused herself from the meeting.

III. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. Tree City USA Designation

Chairman Kaplan asked the members for comments on the draft tree ordinance.

Kate Throckmorton suggested removing the "Registration" section because it could cause problems in processing activities.

Following a discussion on this suggestion, it was the consensus of the members that the "Registration" body of content would be moved to the "Enforcement" section.

Ms. Byrdy offered to talk to the Norwalk Tree Alliance for advice to finalize the draft.

The Committee decided to hold a "special meeting" to vote on the revised draft.

b. Tree Plan Implementation

Chairman Kaplan reported, on Ms. Sesto's behalf, that the tree planting went well this spring.

Ms. Throckmorton reported that one tree had died in front of the American Legion building and that Nick Lee had been alerted and she suggested publicizing a planting goal campaign.

Chairman Kaplan asked the members to review the tree plan map and comment on priority locations and species and asked staff to contact local newspaper when ready.

c. Tree Art Show – November 2010

Chairman Kaplan revealed that the Garden Club organized a tree art show at the library for November 2010. She stated that the Garden Club would like to partner with the Tree Committee and local art guilds and asked for comments and/or volunteers.

Mr. Brown suggested asking the library for contacts to get participation and attendance.

Ms. Byrdy suggested the Wilton Arts Council as a valuable source and the possibility of the event be published in the Conservation Commission's newsletter.

IV. OTHER ITEMS

- Chairman Kaplan announced that the Committee plans to participate again next May in the Tree Festival with Norwalk and meetings will start up in January.

Ms. Byrdy suggested letters be sent requesting participation.

- Chairman Kaplan offered an opportunity to apply for an "America the Beautiful" grant and will resend the information to the members for their review. She is seeking suggestions regarding what we should focus on.

Ms. Byrdy commented that she felt the Norwalk River Trail would be something to tie into or the River Walk.

Members discussed possible areas to focus on for the grant application.

It was determined to ask staff to suggest a location for the grant application.

- Mr. Brown reported that he had inquired about tree insurance and could not obtain such insurance.

V. APPROVAL OF JUNE 2009 MEETING MINUTES

Junius Brown MOTIONED to approve the minutes of June 2009.

VI. ADJOURN

Chairman Kaplan MOTIONED to adjourn @9:15, SECONDED by Junius Brown and carried 4-0-0.