

Draft Minutes

TOWN OF GUILFORD
Tree Advisory Board
Minutes – 16th February, 2017

A regular meeting of the Tree Advisory Board was held on Thursday 16th February, 2017 at 4:00p.m. in the Town Hall with Chairman Shirley Girioni presiding.

Present: John Cunningham (Member at Large)
Shirley Girioni (Guilford Garden Club)
Paul Mei (Guilford Conservation Commission)
Estelle Nussbaum (Leete's Island Garden Club)
Shavaun Towers (Member at Large)

Also present: Tree Warden Kevin Magee
Barbara Nugent (Guilford Garden Club)
Vivienne Thain (Guilford Garden Club)

The meeting was called to order at 4:00p.m. Mrs. Girioni welcomed newly appointed Guilford Conservation Commission representative Paul Mei.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Cunningham made a motion to accept the Minutes of 17th November, 2016. Mrs. Nussbaum seconded the motion and it was carried with 3 votes in favor. Mr. Mei abstained because he was not serving on the Board in November and Ms. Towers abstained because she was not present at the November meeting.

Public Forum: There were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

Proposed Eversource Tree Work for 2017: Mr. Magee circulated copies of a letter and map from Eversource illustrating the proposed tree work, color coded according to what level of cutting would be carried out. Mr. Magee also circulated copies of Eversource's trimming specifications which described the various levels of tree trimming. Trimming is proposed on Route One, State Street, Little Meadow Road, Meadow Hills, South Hoop Pole Road and side streets, Stepstone Hill Road, North Madison Road and side streets, Maupas Road and Half Mile Road. Mr. Magee explained that in January of every year Eversource would notify the Town about its proposed tree work so questions and concerns could be addressed. Mrs. Girioni felt that a lot of areas seemed to be designated for enhanced trimming. Ms. Towers added that there would be some very old trees in the area and that perhaps these could be evaluated. Mr. Magee replied that he evaluated any trees proposed for removal by Eversource but that this had not yet been done. He suggested that Board members could look at South Union, Goose Lane and Mulberry Point Road if they wished to review what Eversource had done in the past. He noted that no complaints had been received. He further suggested that a subcommittee could be appointed to conduct a site walk of the proposed work. Mr. Cunningham and Ms. Towers agreed to look at the tree trimming area. Mr. Cunningham felt that a good clean up had not been done after the last cutting. Mr. Magee said he was trying to get this taken care of. Tree trimming will probably begin around June 27, 2017.

Planting Plan for Roads Around Guilford Center: Mr. Magee reported that the Guilford Garden Club (GGC) was still raising funds for tree planting but until all the money was raised it would not know how many trees could be planted. Using a SMART board, the Tree Advisory Board reviewed aerial views of the downtown streets and considered various planting locations. Mr. Magee mentioned that Fair Street had utility wires on the west side. He circulated copies of lists of recommended trees from the City of New Haven and the CT State Vegetation Management Task Force. Mrs. Girioni pointed out that Guilford had its own planting plan. Mr. Magee felt this might now be outdated with the new “right tree, right place” philosophy. Mrs. Girioni queried tree planting in front of 77 Whitfield Street. Mr. Magee replied that two trees were planted but that the area may need to be revisited to see how other trees were doing.

Mr. Mei asked about obtaining replacement trees. He said he had been involved with an organization in the past where it had been suggested that the Town have its own nursery. Mrs. Girioni mentioned that the Town had tried growing American Chestnuts. Mr. Cunningham added that Madison had also tried a nursery unsuccessfully. He felt it was better to go to a professional grower.

Planting Locations for 2017: **a) Fair Street:** Maybe in front of #63 and the adjacent neighbor. Ms. Towers said it would be nice to have a native tree. Mr. Magee said he was thinking of Oak rather than Maple trees. Mr. Cunningham noted that Oaks had deeper roots than Maples but they did not have good fall color. 3-4 trees may be planted on Fair Street. **b) Broad Street:** Mr. Magee stated that there were utility wires on both sides of this street. One suggested location was at the corner of Board and Whitfield Streets. Ms. Towers asked if GGC could provide a tree and plant it on private property. There was concern about the precedent this would set and also the issue of proper maintenance. Mr. Magee mentioned that GGC asked for donations of \$400 but with increased shipping costs, etc., he felt this should be increased to \$500. **c) State Street:** Various locations were reviewed.

Tree Removal Budget: With regard to the tree program in general, Mr. Cunningham said it was good that the Guilford Garden Club was involved but he felt the Town of Guilford should also be involved. Perhaps the Town could have a budget that would help out GGC with follow up work after a tree was planted. Ms. Towers recommended having funding for stump removal. She thought it would help if there was an identifiable task. Mr. Magee said he had made a budget request of \$90,000 but did not know how much of this might be approved.

Other Business: **1) Refurbish Tree Grates on Whitfield Street:** Mr. Cunningham reported that he had had a company look at the tree grates. He said that they had to be maintained and that some of the circles were too small. Also some of the grates were not level so this should be fixed. Mr. Cunningham said he would obtain an official estimate to refurbish the grates.

2) Plantings for Water Street Municipal Parking Lot: Mr. Cunningham said he had not yet been able to look at this project.

3) Emerald Ash Borer: Mr. Magee circulated information on this beetle. He said it had been found in some areas in North Guilford and at the beginning of Moose Hill Road.

4) Tree Booklet: Mr. Mei circulated copies of a tree booklet published by the CT Forest and

Parks Association. He said his personal goal was to find an American Chestnut tree in Guilford.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15p.m.

The next meeting of the Tree Advisory Board will be held on Thursday 9th March, 2017 at 4:00p.m. in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Stewart
Recording Secretary