

Draft Minutes

TOWN OF GUILFORD
Tree Advisory Board
Minutes – 17th January, 2019

A regular meeting of the Tree Advisory Board was held on Thursday 17th January, 2019 at 4:00p.m. in the Guilford Community Center with Chairman Shirley Girioni presiding.

Present: Shirley Girioni (Guilford Garden Club)
Shavaun Towers (Member at Large)

Also present: Tree Warden Kevin Magee

Liaison to Tree Advisory Board: Dottie Colonese (Guilford Garden Club)
Vivian Thain (Guilford Garden Club)

Excused: John Cunningham (Member at Large)
Sarah Torff (Guilford Conservation Commission)

The meeting was called to order at 4:05p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of 16th August, 2018 were accepted as presented.

Proposed Changes to Tree Ordinance: Ms. Towers reported that she had met with Town Engineer Plaziak to review these proposed changes. Mrs. Plaziak had been concerned about this proposed change being enforced when trees had to be removed in an emergency situation due to weather-related circumstances. Ms. Towers said she had reworded the proposal to reflect this concern. The ordinance only relates to trees on town property not private property. Ms. Towers noted that if it was not possible to replace a tree then money in lieu could be donated to the Town's tree fund at a rate comparable to the cost of installing a tree. These funds could then be used to plant trees elsewhere or conduct maintenance. A draft letter to the Board of Selectmen regarding this proposal was circulated and approved.

Mrs. Girioni gave a brief history of two much earlier tree planting projects The Greening of Route One and Guilford Going Green. She thought it was helpful that the Guilford Garden Club (GGC) now had a tree planting program. Mrs. Thain added that GGC sent out mailings asking for donations but had not received a lot of funding in the past year. Mrs. Girioni noted that the Guilford Foundation's grant application period was now open. She also suggested there should be more detailed language in the proposed ordinance spelling out exactly who it would apply to. After brief discussion the consensus was to leave the document as drafted.

Update on 2018 Tree Planting: Mr. Magee reported that 12 trees were planted in 2018: 3 on the Green (white oaks), 3 on State Street (tree lilacs), 1 in front of 16 Fair Street (crabapple), 2 donated at Guilford Police Department (red maple/dogwood), and 3 in front of Christ Episcopal Church (red bud). GGC funds paid for 10 trees.

2019 Tree Planting Locations: Ms. Towers said she would like to plant on Whitfield Street south of the Green. Mr. Magee mentioned that three trees had been planted opposite 405 Whitfield Street but they were the wrong species and did not survive. He also noted that the philosophy now was to just

replace trees on the Green rather than planting new trees. Ms. Towers volunteered to research the trees on the Green. Mr. Magee said he had general locations for 2019 tree planting. He mentioned 1-2 trees adjacent to the stores on Whitfield Street although this was a bad location for trees. Mr. Magee thought this should be the responsibility of the Town or a club rather than the business owners. Mrs. Girioni asked if GGC would take this over but Mrs. Thain said no. Mr. Magee said he would see if anyone would be willing to clean out the grates around the existing trees. Ms. Towers suggested putting down fabric with gravel on top to deter weeds. Mr. Magee briefly discussed planting adjacent to 265 Old Whitfield Street.

Development of Guilford Tree Policy: Tabled.

Tree Removals as Part of Town Projects: 1) Letter to BOS re funds for replacement trees due to construction: See above under “Proposed Changes to Tree Ordinance”

Public Forum: There were no members of the public present.

Other Business: 1) Refurbish Tree Grates on Whitfield Street: Tabled.

Approval of Bills: The following bill was approved: Katharine Stewart, secretarial services.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55p.m.

The next meeting of the Tree Advisory Board will be held on Thursday 21st March, 2019 at 7:00p.m. in the Guilford Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Stewart
Recording Secretary