

Draft Minutes

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

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

Present: Susan Gillie (Leete's Island Garden Club)
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)
Renee Fisk
Vivian Thain (Guilford Garden Club)

Excused: John Cunningham (Member at Large)

The meeting was called to order at 4:02p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Towers made a motion to accept the Minutes of 15th August, 2019. Mrs. Girioni seconded the motion and it was carried with two votes in favor. Ms. Gillie abstained since she was not present at the August meeting.

2019 Fall Tree Planting: Mr. Magee reported that Bartlett Tree Experts had removed 8 trees on State Street, mostly due to ash borer disease, and 3 trees were removed on Union Street. Mrs. Girioni noted that photographs of the diseased trees would be needed for a report to the Guilford Foundation. Ms. Colonese stated that a grant of \$3,500 was received from the Guilford Foundation. This would cover the cost of replanting 7 trees on State Street. For tree species Ms. Towers suggested Red Oak, Red Maple and Sweet Gum. However these were species which needed to be dug in the spring so to plant now Ms. Towers recommended Honey Locust which she felt was a good urban tree with low maintenance. Ms. Gillie asked how this would compare with existing trees. Mr. Magee replied that the opposite side of the street had Tree Lilacs. After discussion it was agreed that \$3,500 from the Guilford Foundation would be used to plant 7 trees on State Street (Honey Locust). A donation of \$1,000 from the Guilford Garden Club would be used to plant one additional tree on State Street and one tree on Whitfield Street (Cherry). \$500 from the Friends of Barbara Nugent would be used to plant a pink Horse Chestnut on the north end of the Guilford Green in memory of Mrs. Nugent and at her request. A Sweet Gum would also be planted on the Green across from the town hall using funds from a private donor. A total of 11 trees will be planted by mid-November. Mrs. Girioni wondered if funding could be sought from the Guilford Foundation for feeding trees. Mr. Magee said a long term program could be part of the planting costs. He agreed to obtain a price for this. Ms. Gillie

thought Leete's Island Garden Club might take on this project. Ms. Towers noted that the trees should be fertilized in the spring, not now.

Eversource Tree Work Update: Mr. Magee reported that maintenance work was being carried out on the west side of Guilford. This included removing dead trees on West Street as there were high outages in that area. Work was also being done on upper Moose Hill Road and Peddlers Road.

Tree Concerns at 381 Boston Post Road: Mr. Magee reminded the Board that Joseph Esparro, Outfront Media, had been concerned about visibility of his billboards and wished to have some trees removed. Ms. Towers said unfortunately the best trees were the ones blocking his view and that the lower ones had been very badly pruned. She added that if TAB allowed the trees to be removed this would set a bad precedent and other property owners might ask to remove their trees. As suggested at the last meeting, TAB felt the arbor vitae could be pruned first.

Memorial Tree Planting Requirements for Guilford Green: Mr. Magee agreed to email a copy of this new policy to the TAB members.

Tree Removals as Part of Town Projects: 1) Letter to BOS re funds for replacement trees due to construction: Mr. Magee reminded the Board that BOS felt this matter was already covered in the regulations so the ordinance did not need to be updated. Ms. Towers recommended taking suggestions and formulating them into guidelines.

Development of Guilford Tree Policy: Ms. Towers volunteered to start working on this project.

Other Business: 1) Red Bud Trees in front of Christ Episcopal Church: Earlier in the meeting Ms. Colonese said one of these trees did not seem to be doing well and showed a photograph on her phone. Ms. Towers replied that sometimes trees dropped early due to stress so the tree may not be dying. She recommended leaving it for now to see if it recovered. **2) 450 Boston Post Road:** Earlier in the meeting Mrs. Girioni asked Mr. Magee to follow up on trees which were cut down on this property and should have been replaced. Mr. Magee said he would bring this item to the Zoning Enforcement Officer. **3) Tree Fund:** Mr. Magee said he needed to verify the balance in this fund. He added that the stumps of the trees removed on State Street were being ground down using funds from the Tree Warden's budget. Once the Tree Fund balance has been verified perhaps other stumps could be removed. **4) Refurbish Tree Grates on Whitfield Street:** Mr. Magee stated that the Guilford Foundation grant would cover the cost of refurbishing the soil but not the brickwork. Perhaps this could come out of the sidewalk budget. Work may begin in early November.

Public Forum (3 minutes per person): There were no members of the public present.

Approval of Bills: Ms. Gillie made a motion to approve the following bill: Katharine Stewart, secretarial services. Ms. Towers seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Ms. Towers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:15p.m. Ms. Gillie seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the Tree Advisory Board will be held on Thursday 19th March, 2020 4:00p.m. in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Stewart
Recording Secretary