

Draft Minutes

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

A regular meeting of the Tree Advisory Board was held on Thursday 16th November, 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)
Estelle Nussbaum (Leete's Island Garden Club)
Shavaun Towers (Member at Large)

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

Paul Mei (Guilford Conservation Commission) joined the meeting in progress (4:02p.m.).

The meeting was called to order at 4:00p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Towers made a motion to accept the Minutes of 17th August, 2017. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

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

Update on Fall Tree Planting: Mr. Magee reported that four red oak trees had been planted on Fair Street. The residents at #73 had refused to have a tree planted because they did not want a tall tree dropping on their sidewalk and growing over their house. Mr. Magee said he had told the residents it was too late in the year to plant a different species of tree. Mrs. Girioni asked why a tree had not been planted in front of #15 (Seniff). Mr. Magee replied that it was too late in the year. Two horse chestnut trees were planted at Rollwood Park. Mr. Magee stated that he was using a nursery in Newtown which seemed to go well. He would like to make a field trip to check out this facility. Mrs. Girioni queried the owner's request to plant a tree at 1 State Street. Mr. Magee replied that the property owner had not contacted him again so he would wait and see what happened since this was a very difficult planting location.

Update on Eversource Tree Work: Mr. Magee reported that work was taking place on South Hoop Pole and Little Meadow Roads. Then Eversource will start on State Street. Eversource has been told to leave trees above the wires, if possible. Mr. Magee said he had also refused cutting in some areas and felt Eversource had been mostly cooperative. He mentioned that he had met with the Eversource arborist so it was clear what Guilford was looking for.

Tree Planting - Guilford Police Department (400 Church Street): Mr. Magee stated that the Guilford Police Department (GPD) had removed three trees in front of the property. One tree had been splitting and several trees were lifting up the sidewalk. GPD was looking for replacement recommendations from TAB. Mr. Cunningham said he would not recommend planting against the building. Ms. Towers suggested having one big tree. Mr. Magee said GPD would like a pine or spruce tree on the corner. Ms. Towers again recommended an additional big tree in the large grass area between the sidewalk and the road – possibly a maple or oak. Other suggestions included shadblow, dogwood or red bud.

Current and Future Tree Planting Projects: Mrs. Girioni asked if Broad Street should be next. Mr. Magee replied that planting a tree at the intersection of Broad and Whitfield Streets was a Frontier issue as it needed to remove a cable. Mr. Cunningham said there were great elm trees on Lovers Lane but once the corner was turned there was nothing. He felt the same varieties should be planted along the fairgrounds. Ms. Towers mentioned huge gaps in the trees on Whitfield Street. She felt this should be re-established as a main boulevard into the center of town. Mr. Cunningham recommended grinding down the stumps at 148 Whitfield Street and seeding the area. Mr. Magee mentioned Upper State Street on the west side where there were no utility wires.

Update on Discussion with Town Engineer: 1) Review of town ordinances regarding tree planting as part of tree removal projects: Mr. Magee reported that he had reviewed the regulations from Milford which required road projects to go before its tree committee. Ms. Towers said she had been trying to meet with the Tree Warden from Greenwich (Bruce Spaman) which has a public tree policy. She added that there were precedents for this in other towns. Mrs. Girioni said it was time to update Guilford's ordinance and she asked Ms. Towers and Mr. Magee to work on this. Mr. Magee suggested asking Mr. Spaman to meet with TAB. Mrs. Girioni agreed and asked Mr. Magee to arrange this for the next meeting.

Other Business: 1) Refurbish Tree Grates on Whitfield Street: Mrs. Girioni said she had talked to the Guilford Foundation's executive director and learned that she had missed the grant application cycle. Mr. Cunningham stated that he had a company who would refurbish one grate free of charge so that a cost and timeline for the entire project could be estimated. He recommended asking the Guilford Foundation for \$10,000. A cost estimate would also be needed to purchase one new grate since one grate was missing. **2) Tree Budget:** Mr. Cunningham said TAB should find out how to set up an account in the budget for trees. Mrs. Girioni replied that there was a line item but nothing was put into this. Ms. Towers felt the budget should include funding for removals, maintenance and stump grinding. Mr. Magee said he could try to add a line item to his budget. Mrs. Girioni recommended asking for a separate amount of \$10,000 over and above funds for removals. **3) Guilford Green:** Mrs. Nussbaum said the Leete's Island Garden Club would like someone to take them on the Green and identify all the trees. Ms. Towers recommended writing an article on the trees in downtown Guilford for the newspaper, in order to create awareness. Mr. Magee suggested having a handout at the tourism kiosk. Mrs. Girioni mentioned using the tourism website. Ms. Towers said she could research this project. She also recommended establishing a minimum amount for memorial trees (\$500?). Mr. Magee suggested placing an article in the Guilford Events book.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00p.m.

The next meeting of the Tree Advisory Board will be held on Thursday 15th February, 2018 at 4:00p.m. in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted: _____ Katharine Stewart, Recording Secretary