

Draft Minutes

TOWN OF GUILFORD  
Tree Advisory Board  
Minutes – 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

A regular meeting of the Tree Advisory Board was held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 at 4:00p.m. in the Town Hall with Chairman Shirley Girioni presiding.

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

Also present:           Tree Warden Kevin Magee

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

Absent                   Susan Gillie (Leete's Island Garden Club)

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Ms. Towers made a motion to accept the Minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2019. Mrs. Girioni seconded the motion and it was carried with two votes in favor. Mr. Cunningham abstained since he was not present at the October meeting.

**2020 Spring Tree Planting:** Mr. Magee reported that last fall's tree planting had been carried over to this spring. He mentioned that he was having difficulty finding pink Horse Chestnut trees. Mr. Cunningham said he might know of a source and would check this. Mrs. Girioni noted that two Horse Chestnut trees were needed. A donation tree of London Plane is to be planted on the Green. Mr. Magee explained that if someone gave a donation and the Board decided on the variety of tree this would not be a "memorial" tree. However, if someone gave a donation and specified the variety then this would be a "memorial" tree. He said there was a tree in poor condition on the Rollwood property so a tree could be planted there. Perhaps Mr. Cunningham could review possible locations. Mr. Cunningham mentioned a species of tree that would be good with sidewalks and utility wires – Okame Cherry. He said he had reviewed State Street and found 7 tree stumps which could be removed. At the very least Mr. Cunningham said stumps should be removed from properties where new trees were going to be planted.

Regarding applying for a grant, Ms. Colonese said perhaps just the number of trees to be planted could be included on the grant application. Mrs. Girioni felt it would be better if there was more detailed information provided. Mr. Magee suggested planting Honey Locusts on lower Whitfield Street. The grant could be for 5 - 7 trees at \$500 each. Ms. Towers recommended adding River Street to the Board's planning since it was a major artery into Guilford. Ms. Towers and Mr.

Cunningham agreed to review River Street. Mrs. Girioni said if 7 trees were too many for Lower Whitfield Street perhaps some could be used on River Street. Maybe the grant application could be for 10 trees at \$500 each for planting on lower Whitfield and River Streets. Ms. Colonese mentioned that the Guilford Garden Club, as a non-profit, had too much money in its accounts so she needed bills for this spring's tree planting. Mr. Magee said funds could be transferred to the Town's tree fund.

**Eversource Tree Work Update:** Mr. Magee reported that Eversource would be doing less cutting than it did in 2019. There will be approximately 0.14 miles of ETT (Enhanced Tree Trimming) and 6.35 miles of METT (Backbone Maintenance Trimming - Route One & Durham Road). Mrs. Girioni queried the stump at 1 Whitfield Street. Mr. Magee replied that this was the State's responsibility and he had emailed the State about this. He added that there would be standard tree trimming on Boston Street and Goose Lane adjacent to Clapboard Hill Road.

**Memorial Tree Planting Requirements for Guilford Green:** Ms. Colonese said she had read in the Board's minutes that formal requests had to be made for tree planting on the Green and asked if this was correct. Mr. Magee said as long as he approached the Green Committee and provided a location planting could go forward. However, if it was a memorial planting then there was now a process to be followed going through the Board of Selectmen.

**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 changed as TAB had requested. Instead TAB was asked to develop a policy document. Ms. Towers asked what the Board was trying to accomplish. Mr. Magee said he thought the Town wanted a separate document as policy guidelines. Ms. Towers replied that the ordinance gave the ability to require an action so she assumed the Board was looking for guidelines as to what that action should look like. She agreed to draft a proposal for the next meeting.

**Development of Guilford Tree Policy:** See above under "Tree Removals as Part of Town Projects".

**Other Business: 1) 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. The Department of Public Works would steam clean the grates. Mrs. Girioni suggested writing a grant for the rest of the work but Mr. Magee said perhaps this could come out of the road/sidewalk budget. Mrs. Girioni asked when work would begin. Mr. Magee replied when the weather improved.

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

**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.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:45p.m. Ms. Towers seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the Tree Advisory Board will be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 at 4:00p.m. in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Stewart  
Recording Secretary