

## Draft Minutes

### TOWN OF GUILFORD Tree Advisory Board Minutes – 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2017

A regular meeting of the Tree Advisory Board was held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 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)  
Vivian Thain (Guilford Garden Club)

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Ms. Towers made a motion to accept the Minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2017. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

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

**Proposed Eversource Tree Work for 2017: 1) Tree Stump Removal Responsibilities:** Mrs. Girioni asked if Eversource removed stumps and Mr. Magee replied no, explaining that it was difficult enough to get Eversource to remove the wood and stump removal would be even harder. Mr. Cunningham suggested this could be written into the specifications. Mrs. Girioni felt there should be an overall policy about this pointing out that Eversource had the resources to remove stumps. However, Mr. Cunningham explained that stump removal was a big process since it took hours to grind down the stumps and then there could be a huge mound of wood chips to be removed. Mrs. Girioni replied that the Town could at least ask for this removal. Mr. Magee noted that the permits said the wood had to be removed within ten days and that there was a statute requiring this. Mr. Cunningham suggested asking for more prominent stumps to be removed whereas less visible stumps could remain. Mrs. Girioni said she might contact State Representative Sean Scanlon about this issue.

**Planting Plan for Roads Around Guilford Center:** 1) Using a SMART board, the Tree Advisory Board reviewed views of **Fair Street**. Mr. Cunningham said he could walk Fair Street and make a list of the existing trees. Both Mr. Cunningham and Ms. Towers recommended planting oak trees, either red or scarlet. Mr. Cunningham also said it would be easier to go with whatever trees were available rather than trying to obtain a specific variety and then finding that it was unavailable. He further recommended a caliper of 2"-2½" which he estimated would cost approximately \$250. Mrs. Nugent thought the Guilford Garden Club might have enough funding for five trees. Mrs. Girioni felt this would do one street. Ms. Towers said it would be better to do one street at a time rather than having piecemeal plantings in different locations. Mrs. Nussbaum stated that she wished to plant a tree at her residence at 63 Fair Street and said her

husband had chosen a Ginkgo tree. Ms. Towers said she would prefer to see something similar to the existing trees, such as a red or scarlet oak. Overall Mr. Cunningham felt it would be good to plant a smaller unifying tree interspersed along the street on both sides. TAB, therefore, agreed 5-6 trees should be planted on Fair Street this spring. Mr. Cunningham and Ms. Towers will mark locations when the trees are ready to be planted and Mr. Magee will notify the property owners. **2) Broad Street:** Mr. Magee reminded the Board that there were utility wires on both sides of the street. Mr. Cunningham mentioned that at the corner of Broad and River Streets cherry trees had been introduced. He suggested continuing this with small leaf cherries (Kwanzan Cherry) because of the utility wires, i.e. ornamental trees of one variety. Ms. Towers said cherry trees should not be planted in the fall. Mr. Cunningham felt containerized cherries could be a fall planting option. **3) Graves Avenue:** Mr. Cunningham suggested Hornbeam – fastigate form, also possibly containerized.

Mrs. Girioni asked Mr. Magee to develop a chart of spring and fall plantings including tree species.

**Other Business: 1) Refurbish Tree Grates on Whitfield Street:** Mr. Cunningham reported that there were 18-19 tree grates to be refurbished. He said that he thought he could get a company to refurbish one grate at no cost so one could see how it would look. This could be used as a test case to see how long the work would take, costs, etc. Mr. Cunningham estimated \$500 per grate. Mrs. Girioni thought a grant had been obtained from the Guilford Foundation (TGF) for the original grates so perhaps funding could be sought from TGF again.

**2) Plantings for Water Street Municipal Parking Lot:** Mr. Cunningham said he had walked the parking lot and that he and Ms. Towers had picked two areas. This would be at the Water Street entrance where Mr. Cunningham said a parking space could be removed on either side of the entrance to create planting areas. He suggested 2” caliper tree lilac. Mr. Cunningham said he did not see any other suitable planting locations.

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

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

The next meeting of the Tree Advisory Board will be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 at 4:00p.m. in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Stewart  
Recording Secretary