

Draft Minutes

TOWN OF GUILFORD
Tree Advisory Board
Minutes – 21st March, 2019

A regular meeting of the Tree Advisory Board was held on Thursday 21st March, 2019 at 7:00p.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 7:00p.m.

Public Forum: **1) Ann Street, 72 Broad Street,** said she needed to take down a large Norway Maple on her property which was growing into her foundation. Sugar Maples along her property line which were planted in the 1970's were also being taken down as they were too close to the house. Ms. Street said regarding planting in the town center, if trees were not planted in the planting strip and not under utility wires, this could mean planting closer to houses. By taking trees from the street and pushing them back onto property lines one would create problems for the buildings. Ms. Street felt a planning process was needed that including buildings, parking, trees, etc. A planning process that said what environment we wanted for our community. Ms. Towers mentioned that the utility company had developed a list of trees suitable for planting under wires. An added complication was preferring native species which were more appropriate. Mr. Magee added that the Board was looking at ornamental trees under wires because they tended to be smaller with perhaps larger species such as oaks where there were no wires. Ms. Towers said it would be wonderful if people planted nearer their property lines and we got bigger trees. Ms. Street replied that then they would be too close to the buildings. Mr. Magee asked Ms. Street as chairman of the Historic District Commission if this body had any input regarding trees. Ms. Street replied that the Commission did not really deal with trees unless they were part of a specific project such as providing screening. She said the Commission could not rule on things that were not within its purview. Ms. Towers asked if the Commission might have any thoughts on particular trees. Ms. Street replied that she was not knowledgeable about trees. Mrs. Girioni asked Ms. Street to bring up this topic at a Historic District Commission meeting.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of 17th January, 2019 were accepted as presented.

Tree Planting Locations for 2019: Mr. Magee stated that he was unsure how much funding the Guilford Garden Club had to put towards tree planting. Locations could include Whitfield Street and Long Hill Road where roadwork was done last year. Also, trees were being removed on State Street. Mr. Magee mentioned that following the roadwork on Long Hill Road, Bishop's tractors now travelled along the side of the road where trees might be planted. Mrs. Girioni noted a recent newspaper article about the Guilford Garden Club's tree planting fund. Ms. Colonese said this had

generated a wonderful response and she thought there would be enough funding to plant 8-10 trees. Later in the meeting Mr. Magee suggested doing half the planting work now and half in the fall. Ms. Colonese queried spring planting. Ms. Towers replied that this should be done as soon as possible but one could plant up to the end of June. She added that if spring planting was accomplished perhaps a newspaper article could be written as a follow-up to the earlier article and the funds it generated and how these funds had been spent supporting the tree planting program. Mrs. Girioni noted that over time the Guilford Garden Club had planted approximately 180 trees.

Eversource Tree Work Scheduled for 2019: Mr. Magee reported that Eversource was required to provide information on its tree trimming work by the end of January for the coming year. This year work will take place on the west side of town, west of Route 77 (West Street, Peddlers Road, Long Hill Road). Mr. Magee showed a map of the proposed trimming areas and levels of cutting. He added that he had ridden around with the Eversource arborist who was aware of Guilford's trimming criteria. There will be 8 miles of Enhanced Tree Trimming, 10.8 miles of Backbone Maintenance Trimming and 53 miles of Standard Trimming – approximately 72½ miles of trimming.

Tree Removals as Part of Town Projects: Mrs. Girioni reported that she had submitted the Board's letter to the First Selectman regarding funds for replacement trees due to construction. Mr. Magee said the letter was now being reviewed by In-House Counsel who would send her findings to Mrs. Girioni in writing. She had suggested the Board should work more on developing guidelines.

Development of Guilford Tree Policy: This project is ongoing. Mr. Magee said the Board needed to consider wording because if it was too detailed it could increase the Town's liability.

Other Business: 1) 361 Long Hill Road: Earlier in the meeting Mr. Magee said he would have to check in with this homeowner. She was still unhappy about having her lilacs dug up and moved but this had to be done to improve the sightlines at the corner of Long Hill and Hubbard Roads.

2) Refurbish Tree Grates on Whitfield Street: Mrs. Girioni reported that Mr. Magee had written a grant to the Guilford Foundation requesting \$8,000 for this project. This would include refinishing the grates, replenishing the soil, etc. Mr. Magee said he did not have a firm estimate on the brick work but was estimating \$5,000. He also received a reasonable estimate for the grate work from Bartlett Tree Company.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40p.m.

The next meeting of the Tree Advisory Board will be held on Thursday 25th April, 2019 at 4:00p.m. in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Stewart
Recording Secretary