

TOWN OF GUILFORD
Tree Advisory Board
Minutes – 25th March, 2021

The Tree Advisory Board held a virtual regular meeting on Thursday 25th March, 2021 at 4:00p.m. with Chairman Shirley Girioni presiding.

Present: John Cunningham (Member at Large)
 Shirley Girioni (Guilford Garden Club)
 Caroline Herrick (Leete’s Island Garden Club)
 Patricia Keegan (Guilford Conservation Commission)
 Shavaun Towers (Member at Large, joined the meeting at 4:10p.m.)

Also present: Tree Warden Kevin Magee

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:05p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Cunningham made a motion to accept the Minutes of 18th February, 2021. Ms. Herrick seconded the motion and it was carried with 3 votes in favor. Mrs. Girioni and Ms. Keegan abstained since they were not present at the February meeting.

Spring 2021 Tree Plantings: Mr. Magee said at the last meeting the Board had felt up to 8 trees could be planted, of which three would be on the Town Green – 1 or 2 to replace a Norway Maple removed at the north end of the Green, 1 across from St. George Church and 1 across from the Town Hall. A new tree was planted here which was later damaged by a vehicle. It was not known who did the damage so no insurance could be collected. Mr. Magee said TAB had talked about using a sycamore-type tree. Mr. Cunningham suggested London Plane and Ms. Towers agreed. Mr. Cunningham said this species was available and that sycamore was no longer used.as it had a lot of disease, etc. Mrs. Girioni asked if 3 London Planes would be planted but Ms. Towers felt this would be too much. Mr. Cunningham said the memorial tree on the Green for Walter Weissenborn would be an ornamental not a shade tree. However, Mr. Magee replied that ornamentals were not usually planted on the Green. Ms. Towers said it needed to be a species that could be limbed up. She suggested a tulip which was ornamental when younger. Ms. Herrick felt this could be blown over as it had shallow roots. Mr. Cunningham said it was weak wooded but he did not feel it would be uprooted. It was agreed to plant a tulip tree across from St. George Church and London Planes at the north end of the Green and across from Town Hall. Mrs. Girioni reminded Mr. Magee to notify her when the Weissenborn memorial tree was going to be planted so she could contact the Design Review Committee who had paid for the tree. Mrs. Girioni asked about funds for tree planting. Ms. Colonese replied that the Guilford Garden Club had approximately \$13,000.

Other planting locations were Fair, State and Whitfield Streets. Mr. Cunningham noted that a tree had died at the north end of Fair Street (#84). Mr. Magee mentioned #47 and #64 Fair Street, suggesting an ornamental at #64 because of the utility wires. Mr. Magee said that a tree was removed last year at #53

Broad Street adjacent to the intersection with Fair Street. Although there were low wires he felt there was potential to plant if the tree was trained correctly and pushed back closer to the fence line – possibly a taller tree if it was trimmed around the wires as it grew. Mr. Cunningham said wires were the most important thing to look at and also the spacing from the edge of the sidewalk to the road. He said if the planting bed was less than 30” it would be very difficult to plant in this bed. Mr. Cunningham said he had been driving around and had noticed open areas but where there was only 18* of space it was almost impossible to plant anything. He offered to go out to review planting areas and send a list to the Board. Mrs. Girioni said this would be very helpful. Mr. Cunningham asked Mr. Magee about the area by the cell towers on the east end of Route One. Mr. Magee replied that he would need to research this area. He also noted that there were open areas on the west side of State Street. Mrs. Girioni asked if the large tree stump was still at 1 Whitfield Street. Mr. Magee replied yes. Ms. Colonese said trees were removed near the intersection of Boston Street and Soundview Road. Mr. Cunningham replied that a Norway Maple was removed. He believed the property owner’s property went right to the curb so they probably removed the tree to gain more light and would not want the tree replaced. Mrs. Girioni mentioned the State storage facility on Route One where a lot of trees were cut down. She was not suggesting planting trees but felt the State should be pressured to tidy up this area. She said she had brought it to the attention of State Representative Sean Scanlon. Mr. Magee asked for tree species and Mr. Cunningham and Ms. Towers volunteered to develop suggestions. Mr. Cunningham said not every tree on a street had to be the same species but recommended having a primary and a secondary variety. Later in the meeting Mrs. Girioni asked Ms. Colonese why only 8 trees were being planted if more funding was available and she suggested doing much more. However, Mr. Cunningham recommended a maximum of 10 trees. Mrs. Girioni replied that if there was space for 12 trees to be aware that funding was available.

High Street Tree Work: Mr. Magee reported that he was waiting to hear back from Eversource’s arborist as to when it would be doing trimming work. Mr. Cunningham felt future plantings could not be done on High Street for quite a while. Mr. Magee believed that 5 trees would be removed and other trees would be trimmed back from the wires.

Development of Guilford Tree Policy: Ms. Towers said she had sent a first draft to Mr. Magee and felt the Town Engineer should review this before moving forward. Copies will be emailed to TAB members.

Other Business: **1) Refurbish Tree Grates on Whitfield Street:** Mr. Magee said the grates had been cleaned up and that he needed to write a report on this project detailing how the grant money was spent. Mr. Cunningham asked if the missing grate had been replaced. Mr. Magee felt there was not enough money left to cover this cost. Mr. Cunningham replied that all the grates needed to match. He recommended purchasing a new grate, feeling that funding could be found from somewhere. **2) Future Planting:** Mr. Magee mentioned an area on Whitfield Street from Pages Lane heading south towards the marina. Some Norway Maples could be cut back and more appropriate tree species could be planted. Mrs. Girioni asked what trees were planted across from Arrow Paving (405 New Whitfield Street). Mr. Magee said he did not know. Mr. Cunningham noted that when planting trees they had to be watered for the first two summers and that this was a key thing. **3) Route One near Denison Drive:** Ms. Keegan said a road had been installed for construction of 3 houses and a whole section of trees was

removed. She asked about plans to replenish the trees, adding that she was concerned about erosion because it was on a hill. Mr. Magee did not recall if trees or groundcover was going to be planted. He added that this project was reviewed by the Inland Wetlands Commission. Mrs. Girioni recommended Ms. Keegan look at the plans for this project. Mr. Magee agreed to review the plans.

Public Forum: There were no members of the public in attendance.

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 4:50p.m. Ms. Herrick seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the Tree Advisory Board will be held on Thursday 15th April, 2021 at 4:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Stewart
Recording Secretary