

Draft Minutes

TOWN OF GUILFORD
Tree Advisory Board
Minutes – 15th April, 2021

The Tree Advisory Board held a virtual regular meeting on Thursday 15th April, 2021 at 4:00p.m. with Chairman Shirley Girioni presiding.

In Attendance: 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

Excused: John Cunningham (Member at Large)

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:08p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Herrick made a motion to accept the Minutes of 25th March, 2021. Ms. Keegan seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Spring 2021 Tree Plantings: Mr. Magee reviewed the following proposed planting locations:

64 Fair Street: Mr. Magee noted that the power lines were on this side of the street and the planting strip was approximately 6ft. wide. Ms. Towers said trees should be planted in relation to the front door and not arbitrarily located on the front lawn. However, she added that it might not make sense to do this. She suggested two trees and Mrs. Girioni asked what species. Mr. Magee suggested cherries and Ms. Towers crabapples, saying that something other than white would be nice – perhaps a pink cherry or crabapple. Ms. Towers recommended a tree that would reach a height of 16ft. rather than 10ft. – 12ft. She suggested seeing what kind of cherry trees might be available and narrowing the choice down from there.

47 Fair Street: Mr. Magee noted that red oaks had been planted on Fair Street and Ms. Towers said to do this again. Mr. Magee recommended one tree.

16 Fair Street: As an aside Mr. Magee reported that the property owner had planted two trees as required by the Town.

53 Broad Street: Mr. Magee said a Norway Maple was removed by the driveway. He added that communication wires were on this side of the street but not electrical wires. Perhaps something could be

planted closer to the fence. Ms. Towers asked if she was correct in believing there was no sidewalk and Mr. Magee replied yes. He added that one could have a tree reach closer to communication wires as it was electrical wires that required space around them. Ms. Towers suggested a medium sized tree 30ft. – 40ft. Mr. Magee mentioned red maple and Ms. Towers agreed, saying to plant two.

110, 138, 158 & 164 State Street: Mr. Magee said these were future or potential planting locations. Ms. Towers noted that the planting strip at #110 was much narrower than other locations. Mr. Magee agreed saying it was approximately 4½ft wide. Ms. Towers recommended a large tree so it could be limbed up and not impede movement on the sidewalk. Mr. Magee believed Pin Oaks were planted last year. Ms. Towers said she would like more of these. She added that if planting by #110 one would have to be careful about sightlines at the intersection, plus the area might just be too narrow for a tree. Ms. Towers said longitudinally there was room for two trees but she was just not sure if the planting strip was wide enough. Planting adjacent to the shops would help retain the residential nature of lower State Street. Mrs. Girioni asked how many trees could be planted potentially. Mr. Magee replied 3. Mrs. Girioni estimated that a total of 8 trees would be planted and asked if the Guilford Garden Club had funds for 10 trees. Ms. Colonese replied that she thought the Board had decided at the last meeting on 8 trees. Mrs. Girioni summed up saying 2 trees would be planted at 64 Fair Street (cherry or crabapple), 1 red oak at #47 Fair Street, 2 red maples at 53 Broad Street and 3 Pin Oaks on State Street. Ms. Colonese asked about upper State Street and Mr. Magee replied that would be a future planting location. Two other trees will be paid for out of the town fund.

Regarding future planting locations Mr. Magee mentioned 128 & 138 Whitfield Street where the planting strip is 3½ - 4ft. wide, 142 & 158 Whitfield Street with a 3ft. wide planting strip, 176 & 186 Whitfield Street – planting strip is approximately 5ft. wide. Ms. Towers said if the Board planted State Street now it should come back and do Whitfield Street next. Mrs. Girioni asked if this would be next fall or next spring. Mr. Magee replied that this would depend on the variety of tree chosen. Ms. Towers asked what was planted on Whitfield Street last year. Mr. Magee replied London Planes. Mrs. Girioni asked Ms. Colonese if the Guilford Garden Club would have more funds by next fall. Ms. Colonese replied that she did not know at present and was waiting for a response to a grant application to the Guilford Foundation. Mr. Magee said he would check on what tree varieties might be available and then meet on site with Mr. Cunningham and Ms. Towers.

Development of Guilford Tree Policy: Ms. Towers said the draft policy was based on the Greenwich Tree Policy but that she had also done her own research and expanded the document somewhat. Mrs. Girioni asked if the draft policy had been sent to the Town Engineer. Mr. Magee replied that it was decided the Board should review the document first. The Board then reviewed the draft document and Ms. Towers explained the rationale for the various sections. She agreed to rewrite the section regarding replacement of trees (5c{1}). Ms. Herrick volunteered to review the document for formatting errors, etc., to ensure that all the text was consistent.

Ms. Colonese left the meeting at 5:03p.m.

At the end of the document Ms. Towers had posed several questions of topics to be included in the policy one of which was tree work and planting on school properties. Ms. Towers said some towns included this but historically she believed it was done as part of the budget for a school expansion, It

was possible to lose trees on school property and one would want these replaced. Mr. Magee felt anything done would be in cooperation with the school principal. Ms. Towers agreed to add text about this. A second question was planting by the town funded by outside sources. Ms. Herrick did not see why this should be part of the Tree Policy. Ms. Towers replied that it could be part of the policy insofar as the Town would be happy to coordinate with other organizations for the donation of trees. Ms. Towers said she would add some text about this and it was agreed it should be added to Section 9 *New Tree Planting by Others*. Ms. Towers said she would revise the Tree Policy and send it to the Board members. Then the policy should be forwarded to the Town Engineer and Town Counsel.

Other Business: **1) Refurbish Tree Grates on Whitfield Street:** Mr. Magee said he would look into whether or not the grates needed to be steamed cleaned. One tree has grown into the grate so this will have to be dealt with. **2) Long Hill Road:** Earlier in the meeting Ms. Colonese said a Guilford Garden Club member had asked about three trees near the park on Long Hill Road one of which had died and wondered if this could be replaced. Mrs. Girioni asked who had paid for the trees. Mr. Magee replied he believed it was the Guilford Garden Club. Ms. Colonese asked if a replacement tree should be done in the spring or put off until the following planting season. After brief discussion the Board agreed that the tree should be replaced at the appropriate time and when funding was available.

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

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

Ms. Keegan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:20p.m. Ms. Towers seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously,

The next meeting of the Tree Advisory Board will be held on Thursday 10th June, 2021 at 4:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Stewart
Recording Secretary