

Draft Minutes

TOWN OF GUILFORD  
Tree Advisory Board  
Minutes – 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2018

A regular meeting of the Tree Advisory Board was held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 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)  
Shavaun Towers (Member at Large)

Also present: Tree Warden Kevin Magee

Excused: Estelle Nussbaum (Leete's Island Garden Club)

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Cunningham made a motion to accept the Minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2018. Mr. Mei seconded the motion and it was carried with three votes in favor. Ms. Towers abstained since she was not present at the February meeting.

**Public Forum:** There were no members of the public present.

**Eversource Tree Work Update:** Mr. Magee reported that Eversource would be cutting in the Sachem Head/Mulberry Point Road area as part of its ETT (Enhanced Tree Trimming) and was currently working on obtaining homeowners' permissions. Cooks Lane in North Guilford will also be trimmed. Mr. Magee said he had received several letters of complaint regarding tree trimming in general. Mrs. Girioni asked if it was possible to determine how successful the tree trimming had been in reducing power outages. Mr. Magee replied that ETT work had been done on Maupas Road and in an adjacent area where trees had not been cut a large number of trees had come down in storms. Regarding the replacement of wooden utility poles with taller, steel poles from the substation on Stepstone Hill Road to the one on Green Hill Road in Madison, Mrs. Girioni said this work was very intrusive and she asked if it was being done anywhere else in town. Mr. Magee replied no, that just this area was being done because it was a major distribution line. Mr. Mei pointed out that the power lines were already there and that it was just a replacement of the poles.

**Spring Planting:** Mrs. Girioni read an email from Barbara Nugent (Guilford Garden Club) stating that the garden club had funding to plant 8 trees and 1 memorial tree this spring. Mrs. Girioni asked if Fair Street was finished. Mr. Magee replied yes, except for trees in front of #16. Mr. Cunningham and Ms. Towers were asked to review this area. Mrs. Girioni queried the planting schedule. Mr. Magee replied mid-late May. Mrs. Girioni then suggested Graves Avenue, Park and State Streets should be finished before doing Whitfield Street. Mr. Cunningham agreed. Mr. Magee mentioned that at least two locations had opened up on State Street because of trees coming down. Mrs. Girioni asked if the Guilford Garden Club funds were all that was available. Mr. Magee replied yes, for now. Mrs. Girioni asked Mr. Cunningham, Ms. Towers and Mr. Magee to check out planting sites. Mr. Magee thought that the memorial tree could go on the Green and that it should not be planted on a street. Eversource will be removing a tree on the corner of the Green adjacent to the Guilford Free Library. The tree has been damaged and is not in good shape. Another possible location was in front

of the First Congregational Church. Ms. Towers suggested putting the memorial tree and one regular tree on the Green. Mrs. Girioni left this decision to Cunningham, Towers and Magee. Mr. Magee mentioned that the Green Committee did not want any new trees on the Green just replacement trees.

**1 State Street:** Mrs. Girioni queried the homeowner's request to plant a street tree at this location. Mr. Magee replied that he had contacted her but received no response and did not intend to pursue this. After brief discussion Mr. Cunningham made a motion that the Tree Advisory Board had determined that this environment would not accept a street tree so this request was not approved. Mr. Mei seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Regarding planting at the Guilford Police Station, Mr. Magee said he had been contacted by Bartlett Tree Company about planting for Arbor Day. Also the Guilford Newcomers' Club was interested in planting a tree. Mr. Magee suggested planting these trees at the GPD. TAB had discussed a maple or an oak. Another suggestion was dogwood. Mrs. Girioni asked who would order all the trees. Mr. Magee replied that he would do the ordering. A total of 11 trees will be planted.

**Tree Removals as Part of Town Projects: Letter to BOS re funds for replacement trees due to construction:** Mr. Magee circulated copies of a draft letter to the First Selectmen regarding planting trees as part of municipal projects. Ms. Towers gave a brief description of the methodology to be used in replacing the trees. Mr. Cunningham added that Ms. Towers was talking about calibrating what had been removed and deciding what caliper of tree should be used to replace the trees. Copies of a draft amendment to the Tree Ordinance were circulated. Mrs. Girioni asked that this be attached to the letter to the First Selectman. Mr. Cunningham asked if it would be possible to obtain a listing of what trees would be taken down during a project. He also suggested adding text to the amendment regarding the average cost of a replacement tree. Should an applicant not wish to replace a tree then funds should be given to the Tree Fund equivalent to the cost to purchase and install a tree. Ms. Towers agreed to review the letter and draft ordinance to be sent to the First Selectman.

**Tree Removal and Replacement Ordinance & Policy (Review Greenwich Policy):** Board members were asked to read the Greenwich Policy before the next meeting. The Board will then review it together section by section.

**Other Business: 1) Refurbish Tree Grates on Whitfield Street:** Tabled.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 at 4:00p.m. in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Katharine Stewart, Recording Secretary