

Draft Minutes

TOWN OF GUILFORD Tree Advisory Board Minutes – 10th May, 2018

A regular meeting of the Tree Advisory Board was held on Thursday 10th May, 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)
Estelle Nussbaum (Leete's Island Garden Club)
Sarah Torff (Guilford Conservation Commission)
Shavaun Towers (Member at Large)

Also present: Tree Warden Kevin Magee

The meeting was called to order at 4:05p.m. and Mrs. Girioni welcomed newly appointed member Sarah Torff.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Cunningham made a motion to accept the Minutes of 19th April, 2018. Mrs. Nussbaum seconded the motion and it was carried with 3 votes in favor. Mrs. Nussbaum abstained because she was not present at the April meeting. Ms. Torff abstained because she was not serving on the Board in April.

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

Eversource Tree Work Update: Mr. Magee reported that Eversource was preparing to carry out ETT (Enhanced Tree Trimming) work on Cook's Lane and Maple Hills Road with larger trees being removed. Mr. Magee said he had instructed Eversource to try and leave the canopy unless the tree was dying or already dead. The whole tree would be removed rather than leaving a partial tree. Trimming will be done in the downtown area before the summer population arrives and also on Mulberry Point Road. Two trees will be removed on State Street one of which is mostly a private tree and the other is in decline. Another two trees will be removed on the north end of the Green one of which is dead and the other is in decline. Mrs. Girioni noted that the two cherry trees in front of 77 Whitfield Street looked lovely and were in bloom at present.

Spring Planting: Ms. Towers recommended giving priority to planting memorial trees on the Green. Mr. Magee said a white oak tree had come down on the west side. Mr. Cunningham suggested planting a tree where a Norway Spruce had come down. He recommended planting on the south side of the sidewalk across the top of the Green. However when he realized there was enough space he agreed the tree could be planted on the north side of the sidewalk. The recommendation was for large shade trees with the species to be decided later. Mr. Cunningham was in favor of trees in the oak family. A second tree would be planted adjacent to St. George Church. Mrs. Girioni recommended all the trees be of the same species. Three trees will be planted – one at the north end of the Green, one adjacent to St. George Church but planted further back from the road than the previous tree, and one in front of the Town Hall adjacent to the "christmas" tree. Mr. Cunningham felt this should be moved further south. Ms. Towers recommended a larger tree to hold the corner.

Future Planting Locations: 1) State Street: Mr. Cunningham said there were 2 large stumps in front of 71 State Street and he did not recommend planting until these stumps had been removed. He agreed to work on this project.

Mr. Cunningham left the meeting at 4:30p.m.

Continuing the discussion Ms. Towers pointed out that the trees would be under utility wires. She said as a general rule Mr. Cunningham had said to focus on shade trees rather than doing decorative trees under the wires. Something smaller was needed on the east side at #89 and #71 because of the wires. Ms. Towers thought a tree lilac might be too big. However, Mr. Magee said Eversource allowed this species but it might have to be maintained by pruning. It was agreed to plant tree lilacs at #87 and #89. Mr. Cunningham had also suggested planting at #7. Ms. Towers felt there was a lot of space on the west side of State Street for tree planting. **2) 16 Fair Street:** Ms. Towers said Mr. Cunningham had recommended a crab apple tree to match the other crab apple trees on the street. **3) Park Street:** Mr. Magee recommended planting trees in front of Christ Episcopal Church, perhaps in the fall. Ms. Towers suggested having shade trees on the Green and flowering ornamental trees around the edges of the Green. She recommended planting Redbud trees – two in front of the church and one in front of the rectory (11 Park Street). Ms. Torff asked what caused the existing trees to die. Mr. Magee replied that some ornamental trees only had a 20-year life span so perhaps it was their time. The recommendation was to plant white oak trees on the Green with a second choice of scarlet or red oaks. In conclusion planting will be as follows:-

- 4 trees will be planted on State Street at #71, #87, #89 (tree lilacs) and #62 (perhaps a Linden or Pin Oak)
- 1 tree at #16 Fair Street (crab apple)
- 3 trees on the Green (White Oak)
- 3 trees on Park Street (Redbud)

Mr. Magee thought planting would be done in early June. Regarding the Guilford Police Station, 400 Church Street, Mr. Magee said this work would be covered by donations and completed by the end of May. Species will be a larger red maple planted by the road and maybe a dogwood in the triangle.

Tree Removals as Part of Town Projects: 1) Letter to BOS re funds for replacement trees due to construction: Ms. Towers said she would draft this letter next week.

Other Business: 1) Review Greenwich Tree Policy: Mr. Magee felt that this policy should not be adopted in its entirety and that some sections needed to be adjusted to better serve Guilford's needs.

2) Refurbish Tree Grates on Whitfield Street: Tabled.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25p.m.

The next meeting of the Tree Advisory Board will be held on Thursday 16th August, 2018 at 4:00p.m. in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted: _____ Katharine Stewart, Recording Secretary