

Draft Minutes

TOWN OF GUILFORD
Tree Advisory Board
Minutes – 11th May, 2017

A regular meeting of the Tree Advisory Board was held on Thursday 11th May, 2017 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
Barbara Nugent (Guilford Garden Club)
Vivian Thain (Guilford Garden Club)

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

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

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Mei made a motion to accept the Minutes of 9th March, 2017 with the following correction: on page 2, under “#3 Graves Avenue” it should say “....suggested Hornbeam – *fastigate* form,....” Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously. Ms. Towers made a motion to accept the Special Meeting Minutes of 18th April, 2017 with the following correction: on page 5, under “Sally Whiteman, 207 Water Street”, the second sentence should say “A *resident* talked about another project....” Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Public Forum: Vivian Thain (Guilford Garden Club) said Lois Sawtell was going to donate a tree at Rollwood Park but no species had been specified. Mr. Magee noted that oaks, elms and maples had been planted as part of the adjacent Guilford Daycare project.

Spring 2017 Tree Planting – Fair Street: Mr. Cunningham said oak trees had already been dug and he suggested planting 6. Using a SMART board the Tree Advisory Board reviewed views of Fair Street as follows: #47 – it was suggested planting 2-3 trees. Mr. Cunningham recommended 2 as he felt 3 trees would be too much. #53 – 1 tree. #63 – 2 trees. #73 – maybe 2 trees. #89 – 1 tree. All the trees will be red oak. #38 – Mr. Magee said this resident was required to plant 2 trees as part of an approval process. Ms. Towers mentioned the Guilford Foundation's tree fund and asked who determined how the funds were spent. Mr. Magee replied that the funds were donated to the Guilford Garden Club. He said there was another fund to cover catastrophic damage on the Green. Mrs. Girioni mentioned that the Guilford Foundation's grant was an easy one to write. Mr. Magee asked what funds the Guilford Garden Club had available for planting. Mrs. Nugent replied enough for approximately 8 trees. Mr. Cunningham noted that not all the tree planting had to be done in the spring. Mr. Cunningham agreed to look at #38 and the Rollwood Park sites.

Tree Removal and Replanting with Town Projects: Ms. Towers said she had been very upset over the tree cutting that had been done at a Town road project on Long Hill Road. She said the trees had been posted but no-one complained so 6 very large trees were removed. She asked if the Tree Advisory Board could set in motion whatever it would take to have a replacement requirement when

trees were cut down on town property. For example for every 6” caliper tree cut it must be replaced with a 2½ - 3” caliper tree, or perhaps an appropriate amount of money would have to be donated to a tree fund so it was not depleted. Mr. Magee highlighted §252-04, Section F, of the tree ordinance and said he could start enforcing this with a more detailed procedure. Ms. Towers recommended having a standard requiring that the caliper of the tree cut would have to be replaced with a specific caliper tree. Mr. Cunningham said one could say that over a certain caliper a tree had to be replaced with a 2½” caliper tree and if this could not be planted then an equivalent amount of money must be donated. Mrs. Girioni said this would need to be added to the tree ordinance to be effective. Ms. Towers felt the Town should not be able to cut down trees without any consequences. Mr. Cunningham pointed out that if there was money in a fund it could be used for other purposes such as stump grinding. Mrs. Girioni asked Ms. Towers to research what other towns did on this issue.

Planting Plan for Roads Around Guilford Center: The Board considered replacing a tree at the corner of Broad and Whitfield Streets. This would be on private property so Ms. Towers agreed to contact the property owner. Mrs. Girioni said she wished she could have the stump removed of the tree that was cut down. Mr. Magee said trees were being lost on State Street. He suggested that replacement trees should be small ornamental trees because of issues with the power lines.

Eversource Tree Trimming: Mr. Magee reported that he had met with Eversource’s arborist. Tree trimming work will probably begin towards the end of August/early September. Mr. Magee said he had explained the Town’s general procedures and thoughts and provided the permit forms. Eversource has to mark trees for removal and they are then evaluated. Eversource is required to notify the town where it will be working and this has been done. Mr. Magee said he had asked to be given the permit forms in a timely manner so he was not evaluating the work at the last minute. He mentioned a New Haven Register article about debris being left on the road for a long time. Mr. Magee said he had told Eversource that debris must be removed within 10 days of tree cutting. Mrs. Girioni asked if there was information on how much power outages had been reduced as the result of tree trimming. Mr. Magee replied no.

Other Business: **A) Refurbish Tree Grates on Whitfield Street:** Mr. Cunningham said he thought there would be funds available for this project but that he would have to review it with the First Selectman. **B) Plantings for Water Street Municipal Parking Lot:** Mr. Cunningham reported that the parking lot was very heavily used so the Town Engineer was unwilling to give up two parking spaces for plantings. **C) Guilford Conservation Commission:** Mr. Mei asked the Guilford Garden Club members if they had any information on planting for wildlife. He said the GCC had a wildlife program which it wished to expand and to reach out to the public more and wondered if GGC would have any kind of presentation on this. Mrs. Girioni replied that GGC had a list of speakers and topics which could be researched.

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.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00p.m.

The next meeting of the Tree Advisory Board will be held on Thursday 17th August, 2017 at 4:00p.m. in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted: _____ Katharine Stewart, Recording Secretary