

Draft Minutes

TOWN OF GUILFORD  
Tree Advisory Board  
Public Hearing Minutes – 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2018

The Tree Advisory Board held a public hearing on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 at 4:00p.m. at 361 Long Hill Road with Chairman Shirley Girioni presiding.

Present: John Cunningham (Member at Large)  
Shirley Girioni (Guilford Garden Club)  
Estelle Nussbaum (Leete's Island Garden Club)

Also present: Tree Warden Kevin Magee  
Tom Fillion (Department of Public Works)  
Alvonia Fitzhugh (361 Long Hill Road)  
Carl Moritz (325 Long Hill Road)

Excused: Sarah Torff (Guilford Conservation Commission)  
Shavaun Towers (Member at Large)

Mr. Magee said the problem was that several letters and notices to the Department of Public Works had been received regarding sightline issues at the intersection of Hubbard Road and Long Hill Road. He said he had asked the Public Works and Police Departments for a review. Mr. Magee then read a letter from Chief of Police Jeffrey Hutchinson which stated in part that the vegetation in front of 361 Long Hill Road was creating a sightline issue. An offer was made to have the Town cut back the vegetation to address these concerns but the homeowner declined and said she would handle it herself. Unfortunately this has not been done. Mr. Hutchinson's letter recommended that the vegetation be removed to the point where vehicle operators stopped on Hubbard Road at the stop bar/stop sign have clear visibility of northbound traffic on Long Hill Road to a point south of the home located at 361 Long Hill Road.

Mr. Magee then read a letter from James Portley (Town Engineer/Director of Public Works) which stated in part that given the posted speed limit for Long Hill Road was 35MPH, the general standard sightline for vehicles exiting Hubbard Road is 400ft. measured from driver's position 10ft. back from the stop sign. Existing conditions provide a woefully inadequate sightline. Mr. Portley's letter said it was no longer possible just to trim the bushes to improve the sightlines but that they must be either cut down or relocated as a matter of public safety.

Mr. Magee showed a survey map of the property with a line showing the existing visibility and a proposed sightline. Mrs. Girioni asked how far back this line would have to be. Mr. Magee replied probably 12ft. from the center, shortening to 8ft. as it progressed along. Mrs. Fitzhugh stated that she had owned her property for 38 years and had guarded her lilacs whose roots were very old. She said there was a lot of noise and pollution from trucks and school buses so she needed the buffer. Mr. Cunningham recommended removing as much vegetation as possible and then moving the root system. This would help the root system survive since it would not have to support all the leaves. Mr. Magee asked if the whole hedgerow should be moved back. Mr. Cunningham replied that he would not do the whole hedgerow but could move part of it and let it fill in the space. Mr. Magee noted that the root system would have to be moved back far enough to allow for some forward expansion of the vegetation – perhaps 20ft. back from the curb. The vegetation would be trimmed

back now for safety reasons with the root systems transplanted in the fall in line with an existing Sugar Maple on the northwest side of the driveway.

While reviewing the property Mr. Cunningham suggested removing a pine tree in the northwest corner which had been cut and damaged by the utility company. He further suggested retaining the Sugar Maple but removing the Norway Maple, Black Locust, Choke Cherry along the western property line. Some of these were on the invasive list and removing them would allow more light when the lilacs were transplanted. Mr. Cunningham volunteered to oversee the transplanting of the lilacs and Mr. Moritz volunteered to take care of watering them.

Following brief discussion Mrs. Girioni made a motion that the Tree Advisory Board recommended the lilac shrubs be cut back to 3ft. now to improve the sightline for the intersection of Hubbard Road and Long Hill Road and then in the fall the lilac shrubs should be moved by root ball back to a location approved by the Chief of Police and the Town Engineer/Director of Public Works. Mrs. Nussbaum seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Nussbaum made a motion to close the public hearing at 4:35p.m. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Stewart  
Recording Secretary