

Draft Minutes

TOWN OF GUILFORD  
Tree Advisory Board  
Minutes – 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

The Tree Advisory Board held a virtual regular meeting on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 at 4:00p.m. with Chairman Shirley Girioni presiding.

Present: John Cunningham (Member at Large)  
Shirley Girioni (Guilford Garden Club)

Also present: Tree Warden Kevin Magee

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

Excused: Shavaun Towers (Member at Large)

Absent Susan Gillie (Leete's Island Garden Club)

The meeting was called to order at 4:02p.m. without a quorum present.

**Approval of Bills:** The following bill was approved: Katharine Stewart, secretarial services.

**Approval of Minutes:** Tabled due to lack of a quorum.

**2020 Spring Tree Planting:** Mr. Magee reported that planting was set for June 25, 2020. Trees were ordered from SiteOne Landscape Supply, East Haven, CT. Planting will include 7 Pin Oaks, 1 Pink Horse Chestnut, 1 Sweet Gum and 1 Okame Cherry Tree. Mr. Magee said he would add another Cherry Tree because he was unable to obtain a second Pink Horse Chestnut Tree. There were supposed to be two for memorial donations but only one was available. The second donation tree will be a cherry tree planted on the Woodruff property – in an area where three other trees were removed. Mr. Magee said the two donation trees would not have the donor's name in order not to cause any ill-feelings. He added that the Green was a prized location for memorials and it was unfair to plant two trees on the Green in memory of one person. In addition Mr. Magee said due to the COVID-19 pandemic the trees would be planted without any ceremony in order to preserve workers' safety. Ms. Colonese asked if she could take photographs for the record. Mr. Magee replied yes, after the trees had been planted, but that there could be no ceremonial crowd.

**Upcoming Tree Planting:** Mr. Magee said that locations needed to be chosen. He had considered a tree on a Whitfield Street property but the property owner just planted three trees. Mr. Magee said he would look for future locations. Mrs. Girioni suggested lower Long Hill Road. Mr. Magee replied that it would be close to the property line so he would have to check the area. Mr. Cunningham

recommended concluding the spring plantings before considering future planting. Mr. Magee suggested choosing locations at the next meeting (August?) in preparation for fall planting. Ms. Colonese stated that the Guilford Garden Club (GGC) had not received a grant from the Guilford Foundation but GGC had enough funds to cover fall tree planting and would then have to review its finances. Mr. Magee reported that a memorial fund had been set up for a former town employee so donations may be received for trees.

**Eversource Tree Work Update:** Mr. Magee showed a map of Eversource’s proposed cutting plan – mainly for the downtown area. Mrs. Girioni asked if a better job was being done. Mr. Magee replied that it depended on which workers were being used but that he had received no complaints from neighbors. Some bad trees were removed from County Road, Hart Road and Steamboat. West Lake Avenue was also being reviewed.

**Development of Guilford Tree Policy:** Tabled.

**Other Business: 1) Refurbish Tree Grates on Whitfield Street:** Mr. Magee said the soil under the grates would be refurbished down to 6”-8” and then new soil would be added to provide better nutrients. It may be possible to have the grates leveled during Town sidewalk work. Mr. Cunningham recommended taking the soil down to the root mass and then making sure that the roots had soil on top of them with some pre-emergent, then mulch. He added that the soil should be lower and not filled up to the top.

**Public Forum:** No members of the public joined the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30p.m.

The next meeting of the Tree Advisory Board will be held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 at 4:00p.m. in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Stewart  
Recording Secretary