

Draft Minutes

TOWN OF GUILFORD  
Tree Advisory Board  
Minutes – 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2019

A regular meeting of the Tree Advisory Board was held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 at 4:00p.m. in the Town Hall with Chairman Shirley Girioni presiding.

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

Also present:           Tree Warden Kevin Magee

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

Absent:                   Susan Gillie (Leete's Island Garden Club)

The meeting was called to order at 4:05p.m.

**Tree Concerns at 381 Boston Post Road:** Joseph Esparo, Outfront Media, 355 Washington Avenue, North Haven, CT, introduced himself. He stated that in the past his company had trimmed the Bradford Pear trees on this property around the billboards. Some years ago an application was made to have electronic billboards and 5 years ago it was agreed with the Town of Guilford that he would no longer trim the trees until his company had some sort of resolution on this application. Mr. Esparo said the initial application was turned down. Last year he went before the Design Review Committee with another proposal but it was clear that DRC would not be in favor of this. Therefore, the electronic billboards would not be installed but since the trees had not been trimmed visibility of the existing billboards had been lost. Mr. Esparo said he would like some resolution on this matter and approval from the Town to do something with the trees. Mr. Magee explained that the trees were on state property and were planted as part of a grant but the state would not allow any trimming unless this was also approved by the Town. Mrs. Girioni asked if trimming would be a resolution. Mr. Esparo replied that he felt the trees were too big for trimming. He suggested they could be replanted and said he had permission from the state to cut them. Mr. Cunningham noted that Bradford Pear trees would begin to deteriorate as they became older. Mr. Esparo said he would do whatever he was asked to do and that he just wanted visibility. Mr. Cunningham recommended working on the arbor vitae on site first and said he would need to make a site visit before determining what to do about the other trees. It was agreed that Mr. Cunningham and Ms. Towers would make a site visit and then provide recommendations. Mr. Esparo said he wished to do what was least intrusive so if TAB wanted him to remove the trees in the fall when the leaves were gone and replant the following spring that would be acceptable to him.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Cunningham made a motion to accept the Minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. Ms. Towers seconded the motion and it was carried with two votes in favor. Mrs. Girioni abstained since she was not present at the April meeting.

**2019 Spring Tree Planting:** Mrs. Girioni said the trees planted on Whitfield Street were wonderful. Mr. Magee said species planted included Pin Oak, single stem Shadblow, London Plane, Red Maple and Bicolor Oak. Mr. Cunningham asked who was watering the trees. Mr. Magee replied the Town and the Bartlett Tree Experts - twice a week. A Japanese Tree Lilac was planted at Calvin Leete School. Mrs. Girioni thought the Red Buds at Christ Episcopal Church on Park Street looked good. Mr. Magee mentioned that he had received a request from the Town Engineer to remove a Silver Maple at 48 Whitfield Street.

**Correspondence:** Mr. Magee read a note from Tina Hansen, 177 Whitfield Street, thanking the Board for the Shadblow planted at her house and the other beautiful trees that were planted along Whitfield Street.

**2019 Fall Tree Planting:** Mr. Magee said he had marked trees on State Street which would be removed soon – in the area between North Street and Route One. 8-10 Ash trees will be removed along with some trees on Union Street. Ms. Colonese reported that the Guilford Garden Club had \$3,500. Mr. Magee said there had been a request for a memorial tree on the Green. At present the Green Committee was working on a memorial policy for the Green. Mrs. Girioni felt all the trees should be planted on one street which would also be good publicity. Ms. Colonese replied that her contact at the Guilford Courier had moved on. Mr. Magee suggested an article in the Guilford Events publication. It was agreed to plant trees on State Street.

**Eversource Tree Work Update:** Mr. Magee reported that Eversource was doing standard trimming as well as some enhanced trimming work on West Street and Moose Hill Road (Oak and Ash trees). He said he had reviewed this work with Eversource and it was aware of the Town's criteria. Mrs. Girioni asked if Eversource had quantified the results of its tree trimming work. Mr. Magee replied that there were areas where the tree trimming seemed to have reduced power outages. He added that Eversource visually looked for defects in a tree before removing it.

**Memorial Tree Planting Requirements for Guilford Green:** Mr. Cunningham said if anyone wished to plant a tree on the Green then the Green Committee would like to have a formal request to review. Mr. Magee added that an application and form needed to be developed.

**Tree Removals as Part of Town Projects: 1) Letter to BOS re funds for replacement trees due to construction:** Mr. Magee reported that the Town felt there was existing wording already in the ordinance that would cover this matter so it was not in favor of changing the ordinance. Ms. Towers pointed out that this gave one the right to request new planting but it was not mandated. She also

noted that TAB's letter was for more than just town projects. Mr. Magee recommended setting up a meeting with the First Selectman and TAB members.

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

**Other Business:** **1) Tree Fund:** Mr. Magee reported that there was approximately \$6,000 available. Mrs. Girioni asked if some of the larger tree stumps could be removed. Mr. Magee said he would research what the funds could be used for. Mr. Cunningham agreed with Mrs. Girioni that the tree stumps needed to be removed. Mr. Magee agreed to look into the costs for stump removal. It was agreed to spend up to \$2,000 on stump removal. **2) Refurbish Tree Grates on Whitfield Street:** Mr. Magee said that a grant of \$2,000 had been received from the Guilford Foundation which would be enough to re-do the soil around the grates. The Department of Public Works will steam clean the grates. Mr. Magee said he had spoken to the Town Engineer because part of the cost for this project was redoing the bricks which perhaps could go in the sidewalk budget. Ms. Towers suggested the frames should be done when the brick work was redone. Mr. Cunningham recommended fertilizing all the trees while the grates were removed. When reinstalling the grates Mr. Cunningham said there should be as much air as possible above the root ball. Mrs. Girioni asked who would supervise the amendments. Mr. Magee replied maybe Bartlett Tree Experts. **3) Sidewalks on Boston Street:** For informational purposes Mr. Magee stated that the sidewalks in front of 9 and 15 Boston Street may be redone, although this project may not take place for several years. Some of the trees in this area do not look very healthy so they may have to be replaced. Mr. Cunningham thought the parking slots might need to be wider. At present they are 8ft. wide which fits a compact car. Ms. Towers added that they should be 9ft. wide. This could cause the loss of two parking spaces. Mr. Cunningham recommended checking this information with the Town Engineer.

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

**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 5:05p.m.

The next meeting of the Tree Advisory Board will be held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 at 4:00p.m. in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Stewart  
Recording Secretary