

## Draft Minutes

### TOWN OF GUILFORD Tree Advisory Board Minutes – 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2017

A regular meeting of the Tree Advisory Board was held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August, 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)  
Estelle Nussbaum (Leete's Island Garden Club)  
Shavaun Towers (Member at Large)

Also present: Tree Warden Kevin Magee  
Barbara Nugent (Guilford Garden Club)

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Cunningham made a motion to accept the Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2017. Mr. Mei seconded the motion and it was carried with 4 votes in favor. Mrs. Nussbaum abstained since she was not present at the May meeting.

The Board agreed to change the order of the agenda to take "Discussion with Town Engineer" first and then "265 Old Whitfield Street"

**Discussion with Town Engineer:** Ms. Towers said she had been very upset about all the trees that were taken down as part of a town project on Long Hill Road and wondered how this could be allowed to happen. At its last meeting the Board had discussed if tree replacement could be required. Ms. Towers noted that during projects other items were replaced so why not trees? She said she had looked at a variety of tree ordinances and guidelines and then drafted an amendment to Guilford's tree ordinance and circulated copies of this. Her draft would establish a formula for replacement at the discretion of the Tree Warden. Ms. Towers added that this would be a way of protecting assets which was part of the Board's charge, and it would establish a fund for planting, etc. In lieu of planting replacement tree(s) people could contribute to a fund. Funds related to trees would go into this fund and not the general fund. Town Engineer James Portley mentioned that when work was done on the Hubbard Road bridge adjacent to the old dog pound a wetland was created and trees were planted. However, he said there were sections on lower Long Hill Road where he would not want to replace the trees. Mrs. Girioni asked him if he would support this proposed amendment. Mr. Portley replied yes, in general, as long as it did not create a stumbling block in the process. He added that one might not necessarily want to plant in the Town's right-of-way. On Flag Marsh Road trees were planted on private property but close to the road. Mr. Cunningham thought the amendment was a wonderful idea and Mr. Mei agreed. Mr. Portley agreed to review the amendment over the next few weeks. He also suggested contacting the Department of Transportation to see if other towns had included tree planting in their projects. Ms. Towers said she had looked at town ordinances online and found some required replacement but did not include a formula for this. Mrs. Girioni asked if the Guilford Garden Club had funds to plant trees on Long Hill Road. Mrs. Nugent replied no, not this year. Mr. Magee pointed out that if trees were planted on private property the Town would lose possession of them and would need an easement to maintain them.

Mr. Portley left the meeting at 4:20p.m.

**265 Old Whitfield Street (Carl & Jerilyn Geffken): Replant two trees in town right of way as part of permit to remove trees from property in order to redevelop property:**

Carl Geffken introduced himself and said a condition of his redevelopment was to replace two trees. Mr. Magee said several maple trees had been removed on the Summer Street side and a dogwood on the Old Whitfield Street side. He added that a bond had been requested to plant two trees and he showed a map of the area. Mr. Geffken said he was proposing a purple leaf plum as he wanted something decorative. He explained that the trees which were removed were in a cluster, they were not worth keeping and had been damaged up in the power lines. The trees would be 23ft. from the property line and 25ft on the Whitfield Street side. Mr. Geffken said he felt the plum was attractive and would be 25ft. in height. Mrs. Girioni noted that they were not long lived. Mr. Cunningham said on the plus side was the color of the leaf but that they had weak wood. Mr. Geffken replied that he had already purchased the trees. Ms. Towers suggested a group of three trees. Mr. Geffken said he had a storm-water collection system between the trees and a leaching field in an L-shape which went around the corner so there were some restrictions. Mr. Cunningham said he would put two trees on the Summer Street side and one on the Old Whitfield side. Mr. Geffken replied that the bond was for two trees. Mrs. Girioni wondered if Mr. Geffken could exchange the trees for another variety. Mr. Cunningham thought Mr. Geffken would want shade trees. Mr. Geffken replied that he planned to do planting between the trees and make it ornamental. Mr. Cunningham said the plum would not have a canopy. Mr. Geffken noted that they would have single trunk. Mr. Cunningham pointed out that the trees could form crotches as they grew and sections could fall off. However, he felt any tree planting would be an improvement. Ms. Towers added that there was a lovely canopy of trees especially along Whitfield Street. She said planting closer to the road would make the property look bigger. Mr. Geffken said his understanding was that the Board was recommending that the trees be planted closer to the Summer Street side and that purple leaf plums would be acceptable. He also said he had thought of planting red bud if there was a green variety. Ms. Towers recommended planting the plums closer together and closer to the road. Mr. Cunningham suggested putting the plums on the corner on Summer Street. Ms. Towers made a motion that the Tree Advisory Board accepted the installation of two purple leaf plum trees along Summer Street and closer to the road, to satisfy the bond issue. The property owner should follow up with the Board on any future planting in the public way. Mr. Mei seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Geffken left the meeting at 4:45p.m.

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

**1 State Street (Diana Caty): Request to plant a tree in the landscape strip between Broad Street and the sidewalk. She would like assistance on type of tree to be planted in narrow planting strip with overhead wires:**

Mr. Magee said Mrs. Caty wished to plant some trees in the strip from the corner of Broad and State Streets along the side of her house parallel to the Guilford Free Library. Mrs. Caty said the library lights were bothering her. Mrs. Girioni thought the lights in the library were turned off at 8:00p.m. Mr. Cunningham said this was an extremely narrow planting bed and that the trees would have to have a really small caliper – 1½”. He added that a fastigate tree would not look right. Mr. Magee said he had suggested that Mrs. Caty plant inside her fence. Ms. Towers added that she could plant on her own property where there was a wider planting strip. She also said the trees would be very close to the corner and stop sign. Mr. Cunningham recommended Amelanchier (2) with a single stem and 1½” caliper. He also recommended asking for extra funding

from the property owner for tree maintenance and that the trees should be planted right in front of the windows. Mr. Cunningham made a motion that the Tree Advisory Board recommended two trees be planted, centered on the windows of the house, such as Amelanchier (1½” caliper) or a similar variety. Ms. Towers seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Mei left the meeting at 5:00p.m.

**Fair Street Tree Planting Update:** The Guilford Garden Club will plant 7 oak trees. Mrs. Nussbaum said she was happy with the recommendations for her property (#63) but her husband had concerns. Ms. Towers agreed to talk to Mr. Nussbaum. Mr. Cunningham felt one tree on this property would be better than two. Mr. Magee said he would send a letter notifying the neighbors about this planting program.

**Rollwood Park Tree Planting:** Two memorial trees will be planted adjacent to the driveway to the Guilford Food Bank. Mr. Magee said he had asked the Parks and Recreation Director if there were any boy scouts who might be interested in clearing the old garden on this property. He also recommended removing and replacing the Norway maples, maybe with a horse chestnut. Mr. Cunningham said this species was slow growing. He did not recommend planting them near cedar trees. Mrs. Girioni suggested choosing tree varieties on site. Ms. Towers mentioned something taller than the evergreen screen. Mr. Magee agreed to meet Ms. Towers on site tomorrow (8/18/17).

**Correspondence: 1) Letter from Alyson Gibbons-Canestri (13 Wall Road):** In her letter Mrs. Canestri stated in part that there were town trees on the perimeter of her property that had been “deemed rotting and hazardous by a licensed arborist” and she requested a prompt and efficient response to this problem. Mr. Magee said the trees were not a hazard right now but that he would watch them over the winter. Mr. Cunningham said Mrs. Canestri had called him. He added that while there was some disease on the trees which might have caused Mrs. Canestri to think they were dying they were not dying. He added that it would help if the trees were properly pruned as they had a lot of suckers.

**Other Business: 1) Refurbish Tree Grates on Whitfield Street:** Mrs. Girioni volunteered to ask the Guilford Foundation for funding for this project. Mr. Cunningham said one grate would be done in order to obtain an idea of the cost. This would involve removing the grate and cleaning it, then cleaning, weeding and mulching the top of the tree. There are 14 grates to be refurbished.

Ms. Towers left the meeting at 5:15p.m.

**Approval of Bills:** Mr. Cunningham 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 5:30p.m.

The next meeting of the Tree Advisory Board will be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at 4:00p.m. in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Katharine Stewart, Recording Secretary