

TREE COMMITTEE  
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TOWN HALL  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

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Wilton Tree Committee  
Tuesday, March 19, 2019

**Special Meeting Minutes**

Present: Jackie Algon, Susan DiLoreto, Peg Koellmer, Suzanne Knutson, Kimberly Young  
Absent Lars Cherichetti Tree Warden

- I. Call to Order:  
J. Algon called the meeting to order at 5:01. Noted that the date of the agenda should read Tuesday, 3/19/19.
- II. Approval of Minutes of February 2019
  1. P Koellmer motioned and S Knutson seconded to postponed approval of minutes until the April Meeting. Approved 4-0-1.
- III. Tree Warden's Report - Postponed until March Meeting as Tree Warden was not present.
- IV. Ongoing Business
  1. Open Positions on Tree Committee (TC)
    - i. Committee members interviewed Wayne and Anne Djupetal Gura, residents of Wilton, recently retired and interested in conservation issues and the Tree Committee. Both have participated in several volunteer roles in Wilton including the Wilton Library. J. Algon explained she was waiting to hear from the First Selectwoman if a husband and wife team could both serve on the committee concurrently, and we would get back to them.
    - ii. Committee discussed interview and added to the list James and Margaret Van Acker who also expressed interest in joining the Tree Committee. S. Knutson to follow-up with the Van Ackers before the next April Meeting and invite them to speak with the Committee then.
  2. Center Tree Plan - postponed until April meeting
  3. Wilton Center Tree Inventory - postponed until April meeting
  4. Bricks for planted trees – the Committee agreed to review the bricks in a walk in Town Center for the June meeting.

5. Significant Tree List - K. Young and S. Knutson photographed and measured the Beech and Sycamore trees at 151 Skunk Lane. House is on the market.
6. Photos of (2) trees on 151 Skunk Lane -above.
7. Tree education outreach – Review of Margery Winters presentation ‘Trees and Shrubs for Pollinators’, 3/13/19 at Wilton Library. Approximately 50 attendees, good presentation, and positive response from attendees. S. Knutson commented speaker spoke about a narrow, specialized plant group ‘native plants’. She commented majority of attendees were knowledgeable Wilton Garden Club (WGC) members and if Tree Committee wishes to educate a wider audience, we might consider less specialized speakers in the future. Consider how we reach new homeowners who might benefit from a more generalized ecological topic. Tree Committee suggestions to be considered - create pamphlet for target market of home sales and newspaper articles on ecological topics for new homeowners. J. Algon noted the speaker spoke about planting to attract specialized birds and insects and the generalists will also be attracted. In addition, S. DiLoreto brought up that there is a range of acceptable definitions of ‘native’ plants and recommended Tree Committee review what our definition should be as we continue to recommend natives and educate on importance of natives. S. DiLoreto to research definitions of natives and circulate prior to April meeting for discussion by the Committee. S. Knutson added it is important to ‘connect the dots’ in educational topics for the novice audience.
8. Community Canopy Program - Eversource declined the grant request. To participate in the Arbor Day Foundation Community Canopy program, it is necessary to have a partial or full funding partner. Tree Committee and the Wilton Garden Club are therefore ineligible to participate in the program. S. DiLoreto will notify by email all individuals who signed up as interested in the program and in two weeks will resend a second email to any individuals who respond to the Conservation Commission newsletter article about Community Canopy. Tree Committee will reconsider the program in the future.
9. Tree Pruning Manual - Postponed discussion until April meeting.
10. Updating Tree Plan - Postponed until April Meeting

#### V. New Business

1. Review and discussion of draft Annual Report - J. Algon distributed the draft Summary Report to all Tree Committee members and asked that all review and we will discuss at April meeting.
2. Review and discuss Draft Goals and Objectives for 2019-20. S. Knutson to draft and distribute prior to the April meeting.
3. Tree Steward 2019: The Committee unanimously agreed to name Kate Throckmorton as Tree Steward for 2019. J. Algon to inform her and to ask her preference of a shade or understory tree. The location will be determined based on the type of tree chosen; J. Algon will confer with L. Cherichetti about an appropriate site for the tree. The date of planting and recognition will be 26 April 2019.

VI. Legislation and Laws

1. J. Algon sent a letter on behalf of the Tree Committee to the State Legislature in support of HB5312:
2. K. Young reviewed two bills that are under consideration, the Land Water Conservation Act and the Natural Resources Management Act.

VII. Publications and Publicity

1. Articles for Media – J. Algon to ask L. Cherichetti if he is willing to draft an article about pruning and maintenance of trees to promote safety, reduce risk and enhance trees' aesthetics.
2. Community Canopy Program - discussed above
3. Proper pruning and maintenance of trees to promote safety and tree health, reduce risk and enhance tree aesthetics. J. Algon to ask L. Cherichetti to draft article.

VIII. Adjourn meeting at 6:05

P.Koellmer moved and K. Young seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:05, which was approved 5-0-0.

**Next meeting Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 5 p.m. at Town Annex**

19 March 2019, S. DiLoreto