TREE COMMITTEE
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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

Wilton Tree Committee
Wednesday, 10 July, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Present: Suzanne Knutson, Kimberley Young, Jackie Algon
Absent: Lars Cherichetti Tree Warden, Susan DiLoreto
Attendee from public: Peggy VanAcker

I. Call to Order
J. Algon called the meeting to order at 6:08.

II. Approval of Minutes
Minutes of the June meeting were approved as written 3-0-0.

III. Tree Warden's Report – none.

IV. Ongoing Business

1. Open Positions on Tree Committee (TC)
The Tree Committee is expecting that with the review of the two reports by the First Selectwoman in conjunction with S. DiLoreto, M. Conklin and J. Algon, the BOS will then consider the reports and the three candidates willing to serve on this Committee. We are hoping to have a complete complement of members for our September meeting.

2. Holiday Tree for Town Green
The First Selectwoman agreed to the Tree Committee's proposal to move the Katsura tree to the Chess Park. We will issue an RFQ to purchase and install a 12' or 15' Blue Spruce as the Holiday tree (in the area beside the businesses' sign) on the Town Green that will be made available when the Katsura is gone. In order to ensure a reasonable cost for this work, we will plan to also purchase and install the other three donated trees the same day. Our target planting date will be in October.

V. New Business

1. Request for Sustainable CT support from Tree Committee
On the recommendation of M. Conklin and the First Selectworman, Debra Thompson-Van requested the Tree Committee contribute information about our projects or processes in support of Sustainable CT. She forwarded several options for our contribution and the Tree Committee, after separate discussion with Lars Cherichetti, has agreed to work on the 5th bulleted item, reading: Establish a tree planting program based on the specific goals the FAC either stated or outlined in its Municipal Forest and Woodlands

Management Plan. Include an approved species list of native plantings, a location map of planned plantings, and a maintenance plan for these trees. See Appendix E for a list of guiding questions. J. Algon to communicate this decision to Thompson-Van, to determine the deadline for submission of the input, and to begin assembling the needed information..

2. Final reports for submission to Conservation Commission and Board of Selectmen summarizing work of the Tree Committee over the past decade and outlining our Goals and Objectives going forward.
    i. The Committee discussed whether to include the intention to request a budget in the Retrospective Report and considered other ways to fundraise for projects we wish to champion.
    ii. When the Committee has its full complement of members, the seven target goals will be divided among the members for each to assume leadership for a section. One project, the Notable Trees List, needs expansion. One suggestion is to publicize this project in the Fall Newsletter and in the *Bulletin*, perhaps connecting it with a photography contest and display of photographs in the Library.
    iii. One project the Committee wishes to assume is the eradication of invasive species along River Road and the replacement in some cases, with native shrubs and/or trees. The objective is to create three 'windows' that give visual access to the Norwalk River. There was discussion about the best way to manage the eradicated spaces to prevent regrowth of these and other invasive plants, either by monthly weed whacking or by replanting with native ground cover. The Committee agreed to establish an experimental area to test both methods and to then proceed according to our findings. In preparation for this project, the members will seek articles and photographs of other successful riparian restorations to use as guidance.
    iv. In order to raise funds to accomplish these projects, the Tree Committee agreed to prepare a brief presentation that can be offered to organizations in Wilton such as the Women's Club, the Kiwanis Club, the Rotary, *etc*. to engage them in recognizing the benefits to both the ecosystems and the aesthetics of our Town.

VI. Legislation and Laws - none

VII. Publications and Publicity - none

VIII. Adjournment

K. Young moved and S. Knutson seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:08, which was approved 3-0-0.

Next meeting Wednesday, 11 September 2019 at 6 p.m. at Town Annex.
Please note the change in start time of these meetings going forward!!

12 July 2019, J. Algon