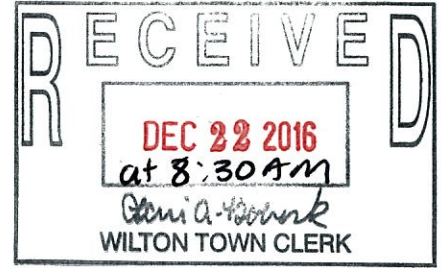


**WILTON TREE COMMITTEE**

Draft Minutes

14 December 2016

Town Hall Annex, Meeting Room A



Present: Chair Kate Throckmorton, Lars Cherichetti, Susan DiLoreto, Nick Lee, Bill Meehan, Jackie Algon

Excused: Paul Young

Guest: Suzanne Knutson

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kate called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the 12 October 2016 meeting were approved 5-0-0.  
There was no meeting in November.

III. TREE WARDEN REPORT

Lars Cherichetti presented the tree report in Paul's absence.

IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

- a. Center Tree Plan Status: Kate reviewed recent additions of tree tags which the committee placed in October.
- b. Updating the Tree Inventory: Kate noted the Tree Inventory is now updated to December 2016 and reflects the tree tags placed in October, and several updates from tree "take downs" that are no longer on the list.
- c. Notable Tree List: There was a motion from Nick Lee and seconded from Bill Meehan to add the Red Oak on 70 Musket Ridge to the Notable Tree List. The tree was measured by Nick and Kate in October; the measurements and photos were forward to Liz Larkin to update the list.
- d. Tree Maintenance Review for Wilton Center: Lars and Nick expect to follow-up on this over the winter months.
- e. The proposed education outline remains on the Agenda, but on hold.

V. TREE LEGISLATION

- a. No new legislation to discuss.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICITY

- a. Susan DiLoreto took an assignment to develop the news article for Spring 2017.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Correspondence from Suzanne Knutson: This agenda item was moved up in the meeting to accommodate the guest attendee, Suzanne Knutson, President of the Wilton Garden Club.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the spring 2016 planting of a Red Oak in proximity to the Veterans' Memorial Monuments and Garden. Ms. Knutson asked that the oak be moved to avoid conflicting with the perennials and shrubs that the garden club planted. Her primary concerns were shading and acorn drop.

According to the First Selectman and the Director of Environmental Affairs, responsibility for this issue has been referred to the Conservation Commission, which will meet in January and will discuss it at that time.

The Tree Committee listened to Ms. Knutson's concerns, expressed their design criteria for the area and referenced the 2008 tree plan design and intent for the Center. Emphasis was placed on a collaborative approach to planting in Wilton Center going forward. The Tree Committee members noted the tree location is north of the garden and will eventually replace the declining (72"± diameter breast height) Sugar Maple that is located north of the garden. In addition, the Red Oak replaces a memorial tree planted in 1976, donated by the Von Kydroff's, which was removed in 2016 after it died. The Committee emphasized the importance of larger shade trees to replace the removal of many declining Sugar Maples that have been removed throughout the Center over the past 10 years. The Committee emphasized the benefits of larger shade street trees in "urban" areas and did not support replacing this tree with an understory tree, such as a dogwood.

As the First Selectman is establishing a committee to review and address design issues that impact the Town Center, no specific actions were needed on this issue at this time.

- b. Tree City USA: The town's application for "Tree City USA" was renewed by Liz Larkin.
- c. America The Beautiful Grant (Schenck's Island): Mike Conkin asked for the Committee's help in applying for an America The Beautiful Grant from DEEP to help fund ash tree removal and native shade tree replacements, focusing on the riparian buffer along Schenck's Island. The Committee enthusiastically agreed and will be scheduling a site walk after the holidays.
- d. Election of Officers for 2017: Motion was made by Bill seconded by Susan to elect Kate Throckmorton as Chairman, a vote of 5-0-0 approved her election. Motion was made from Nick second by Bill to elected Jackie Algon as secretary; a vote 5-0-0 approved her election.
- e. Meeting schedule for 2017: Motion from Nick and second by Susan to approve the meeting schedule for 2017 as drafted, a vote of 5-0-0 approved the motion.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

B. Meehan moved and N. Lee seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was passed 6-0-0, and the meeting ended at 5:20 p.m.

**The next Tree Committee meeting will be Wednesday 11 January 2017 at 4 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex.**

17 December 2016, J. Algon

