

TREE COMMITTEE  
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TOWN HALL  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

Wilton Tree Committee  
Wednesday October 9, 2019  
Comstock Community Center Room 31

Present: Jackie Algon, Susan DiLoreto, Suzanne Knutson, Kimberley Young, Peggy Van Acker, Scott Macquarrie, Lars Cherichetti Tree Warden

- I. Call to Order: J. Algon called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.
- II. Approval of Minutes of July 10, 2019
  - a. S. DiLoreto motioned and S. Knutson seconded approval of the July 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Approved 4-0-2.

III. Tree Warden's Report:

L. Cherichetti reported update on work that has been taking place over last few months. Many ash trees are being taken down. Two years of wet summers, causing root rot in maples. Oaks appear healthy. Pests: 2-Line Chestnut borer and Spotted Lantern Fly.

L. Cherichetti expects to have software soon to enable him to identify property lines and distinguish between Town-owned and privately-owned properties in Wilton Center. Committee needs to identify the number of trees on public property and number of trees on private property in the Center for future maintenance program.

**IV. Ongoing Business**

1. Three positions on the Committee have new candidates; two of these [Margaret (Peggy) VanAcker and Scott MacQuarrie] were approved by the Board of Selectmen on 7 October 2019. The third, Wayne Gura, will be joining upon approval at the next Board of Selectman meeting 23 October.
2. Tree for Town Green –

Holiday Tree- A 12' Norway spruce will be planted on the Wilton Town Green (donated to Wilton by the First Selectwoman) to replace the existing dying spruce. The existing Katsura Tree on the Green, donated in honor of Paul Young's work as the past Tree Warden, needs to be moved to make room. L. Cherichetti will assess for transplanting in town or replacement in town with a new Katsura..

Locations in the Center for two trees (species tbd) donated for Alton Johnson need to be decided for planting this fall upon confirmation of where openings exist in current Center Tree Plan.

A sugar maple donated by Del Overby and a family friend in Jim Overby's name will be planted at the Wilton Football stadium to replace a dead tree that was recently removed. Parks and Recreation are in agreement.

**V. New Business**

1. Request from Sustainable CT for support from the Tree Committee was prepared and submitted by J. Algon.
2. Final reports: Ten Year Summary of TC, and Goals and Objectives will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen to be submitted by J. Algon on 10/21/19. J. Algon explained the Goals and Objectives for the Tree Committee Year to the new members.

Committee members took assignments as lead persons on each project as follows:

1. Develop tree management strategy for trees in Town Center and plan for implementation - S. DiLoreto with help of L. Cherichetti
  2. Expand tree advocacy and include native shrubs, expand educational efforts. - Peggy Van Acker, J. Algon
  3. Continue Tree Donation program in future revised format. - J. Algon, K. Young
  4. Administer Tree City USA status in Wilton, including naming and honoring annual tree steward. - Scott MacQuarrie, (Elizabeth Larkin files documents to renew the Tree City USA certification)
  5. Develop program for researching, writing applying for grants. – S. Knutson, K. Young
  6. Maintain awareness of Federal, State and local legislation related to trees and shrubs. - K. Young, S. MacQuarrie
3. Discussion of current Tree Donation program, challenges due to lack of maintenance funding and bidding-out contracts to purchase and plant future donations.

Pricing scenarios discussed and the TC agreed to change the donation program to a flat price of \$1000 per tree (whether shade or understory) to purchase, install a tree and to include a three- and five-year projected maintenance for newly planted trees. K. Young motioned and P. VanAcker seconded it to adopt the new price of \$1000 per tree in the revised Tree Donation Brochure effective immediately. Motion approved 6-0-0. The Tree Committee will develop a new brochure in support of the Tree Donation Program and will include shrubs, but will not begin accepting donations for them until the Town Center Plan is reassessed. Shrubs in the Program will be handled in clusters rather than as single entities.

4. CT Tree Protective Association is donating a white oak tree to honor Tree Wardens, to be planted in Wilton. L. Cherichetti to review location possibility near the parking lot south of HS tennis courts.

5. Based on an effective outcome from a recent meeting with the Parks and Recreation Department heads, Tree Committee will meet with Parks and Recreation quarterly each year to discuss opportunities to work together planting trees in town parks and recreation sites. A similar communications arrangement will be established with the Department of Public Works.

VI. **Tree Legislation** - None

VII. **Communications and Publicity**

The Committee discussed possible topics for upcoming Newsletters and articles in the local newspaper.

- VIII. K.Young motioned and S. Knutson seconded to adjourn the meeting. Approved 6-0-0 at 7:35 pm.