

WILTON TREE COMMITTEE

14 March 2018
Town Hall Annex and Wilton Center

Present: Chair K. Throckmorton, L. Cherichetti, S. DiLoreto, W. Meehan, J.
Algon; Excused: N. Lee

I. CALL TO ORDER

K. Throckmorton called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

W. Meehan moved and S. DiLoreto seconded approval of the minutes of the February 2018 Meeting, as amended; they were approved 4-0-0.

III. TREE WARDEN REPORT

There has not been much progress against the list. Many of the trees that sustained damage during the snow storms are not Town-owned trees.

IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. Tree Steward:

- i. K. Throckmorton strongly supported naming Christina (Tina) Duncan as Tree Steward for 2018. Following discussion, the Committee voted unanimously to nominate her as Tree Steward.
- ii. The species and site for the new tree were also discussed in the context of other trees that are to be planted in memoriam or as honoraria this Spring. The decision was to plant a Linden Tree behind the gazebo in the Wilton Town Green as the Arbor Day tree for which Duncan will be Tree Steward. N. Lee will order the Linden Tree in time for the planting, and the Committee will determine the exact location to plant it.

b. Trees for Other sites:

- i. a Linden tree on River Road near Ogden House in memory of Dibner
- ii. a Zelcova tree on the island behind Wilton Pizza to replace the Zelcova that was formerly there; there is a possibility that Kiwanis may elect to donate a tree in memory of Junius, which could be this tree
- iii. a tree along the Norwalk River across from Stop and Shop near the Chess Park (exact location of which will be coordinated with S. Knutson) in memory of MacDonald
- iv. possibly a shade tree at Kent Pond at the corner of Rt 33 and Linden Tree Rd.

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BY: LK

- v. K. Throckmorton has reached out to Susan Kaye at the Presbyterian Church to determine whether there is still interest in their planting a tree on the Church property, but she has received no response to-date.
- c. Center Tree Inventory and Plan:
 - i. K. Throckmorton reviewed the current tree plan with the committee showing where sites are available for trees, should any be donated.
- d. Significant Tree List:
 - i. No activity
- e. Tree Maintenance:
 - i. K. Throckmorton has asked N. Lee and L. Cherichetti to walk the area to identify any trees that require attention. We need to ensure the large shade trees get work done that is needed to keep them healthy.
 - ii. The tree at the corner of Godfrey and River Roads is tipping back. This is not a Town-owned tree. A letter will be sent to the property owners with general guidelines for pruning trees, and recommending they consult with the Tree Committee before doing any pruning of the tree.
- f. Tree Education Course: J. Algon tried to contact CNLA for a speaker and has not connected with anyone to-date. She will continue seeking a speaker.
 - i. *(Note: Prof. Douglas Tallamy will present Bringing Nature Home on Tuesday, 27 March at 7 pm at the Wilton Library, which will address the importance of planting native trees to sustain wildlife. There are currently 140 pre-registered for this presentation.)*

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Arbor Day 2018:
 - i. See IV.a.i and ii, above
- b. Butterfly Garden on River Road:
 - i. M. Conklin is planning to install a butterfly garden at that location as an attractive entry to Schenck's Island and has engaged S. Knutson to create the design. The installation would begin in mid-April. There are four Cedars and a Cottonwood flanking the area at the footbridge from River Road across the Norwalk River into Schenck's Island. The planting schematic would require elimination of these five trees. The Tree Committee supported removal of the Cedars which have reached their maturity, but urged retention of the Cottonwood, an excellent floodplain tree and a native host plant for several butterfly species (Mourning Cloak, Red-Spotted Purple, Northern Pearly Eye, Viceroy, White

Admiral). The Tree Committee also recommended using plant species more supportive for pollinators than many of those included in the schematic. The recommendations will also be considered by the Conservation Commission.

VI. TREE LEGISLATION

- a. Hartford is actively taking down ash trees.
 - i. *Assignment: K. Throckmorton to forward articles to the Tree Committee members for information.*

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICITY

- a. Tree Canopy Program:
 - i. S. DiLoreto contacted the Arbor Day Foundation to clarify some points from their Webinar. The Tree Committee agreed to pursue this Program with a Fall 2018 implementation. We will either require the participating residents to underwrite the cost (\$45-\$50/tree), or we will try to find funding for the project. There is a 100-tree minimum for Wilton to participate. We will begin by writing an article for *The Bulletin* and *Wilton Villager* to determine the number of residents who would be interested in the program, and we will look for sponsors, such as Eversource. Trees to be included would be small natives such as Amelanchier and Dogwood.
 - ii. *Assignment: S. DiLoreto to phone the Arbor Day Foundation to get more information.*
- b. Spring-Fall Newsletter Potential Topics:
 - i. Thinking about trees between neighbors so they are not ignored. (L. Cherichetti to write a short article)
 - ii. Advice on caring for trees on one's property
 - iii. How a homeowner can move a tree on her/his property
 - iv. Homeowners and Chain Saws
 - 1. *Assignment: L. Cherichetti to offer a workshop on dangers and appropriate use. J. Algon to work with him identify a date, get a location, PR.*

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

W. Meehan moved and K. Throckmorton seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting which passed 4-0-0; the meeting ended at 6:12 p.m.

The next Tree Committee meeting will be Wednesday 11 April 2018 at 5 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex.

26 March 2018, J. Algon

