

WILTON TREE COMMITTEE

14 February 2018
Town Hall Annex and Wilton Center

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TOWN OF WILTON

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BY: *LK*

Present: Chair K. Throckmorton, L. Cherichetti (excused at 5:21 p.m.), S. DiLoreto, W. Meehan, J. Algon

Excused: N. Lee

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

K. Throckmorton called the meeting to order at 5:09 pm. L. Cherichetti was introduced in his capacity as Tree Warden for Wilton. P. Young has resigned and L. Cherichetti was appointed at the end of 2017.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

W. Meehan moved and S. DiLoreto seconded approval of the minutes of the 8 November 2017 Meeting; they were approved 4-0-0.

III. **TREE WARDEN REPORT**

There is a backlog of 180 trees needing attention: 15 of these are urgent, 44 of high priority, 59 of medium priority and 70 of low priority. Cherichetti is working with DPW to develop a better tracking system for the status of each tree; he has provided them a log which will be updated monthly and is aiming to develop a work order for tree management. Currently, there is more money in the budget for this year which will help with the ash tree requirements and Lars is requesting more funding for next year. Cherichetti described how to identify ash trees that are diseased, and he indicated that it is more cost and safety effective to remove these trees before they die than to wait until after they are dead. He also showed a map locating Eversource's current work areas (at the Norwalk-Wilton town line); at this time, they are not working where our trees requiring priority maintenance are located.

- i. Assignment: L. Cherichetti will document the guidelines he follows for tree removal and pruning, and he will circulate this document to the Tree Committee for information before the next meeting.

IV. **ONGOING BUSINESS**

- a. K. Throckmorton explained that all meetings will be recorded.
- b. Tree City Update: We have renewed Wilton's Tree City status.
- c. Center Tree Inventory and Plan:

- i. Jennifer Fanzutti is updating the Tree Plan, after which the Committee will place the four trees that have been donated.
- ii. The Center Tree Plan includes Horseshoe Pond, Merwin Meadows and the Town Center. The following locations are under consideration for additional trees:
 - 1. River Road near Glen Ridge
 - 2. Near the movie theatre along the Norwalk River. This area has a design created by S. Knutson; S. DiLoreto suggests it include shrubs.
 - 3. At the Center School (Town Green) back left-hand corner has a Norway Maple that could be replaced by a Norway Spruce.
 - 4. In the island behind Wilton Pizza is empty and would be ideal for a small tree
 - 5. At Bank of America where there is a dogwood planted by the Bank and there is room for a second tree
 - 6. The plan for Horseshoe Pond is under development including clearing windows and eradicating invasive species. Until completed, tree planting at that site is on hold.
- d. Eversource Tree Removal Status: Eversource's removal plans for Wilton's trees have a goal of maintaining canopy coverage. Eversource must walk and list trees they intend to remove.
- e. Notable Tree List: The NRVT staff have given verbal agreement to clearing the area under the White Oak near the entrance at Wolfpit and Rt 7.
 - i. Assignment: *K. Throckmorton will follow-up with N. Lee and L. Cherichetti.*
- f. Tree Education Course: No effort.
 - i. Assignment (from November 2017): *J. Algon to contact CNLA to identify a speaker.*

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Arbor Day 2018: The event will be 27 April 2018. This will include the planting of a tree and the naming of the Tree Steward. Past nominations for this honor have included Bruce Beebe, Jerry Finch, Kristin Begor, Alice Levin. Names added to the list for consideration at next month's meeting are Elizabeth Craig, Christine Duncan, Pat Hegnauer.
 - i. Assignment: *J. Algon will prepare a write-up on Tina Duncan's accomplishments and forward it to the Committee members for consideration before the next meeting.*
- b. The Tree Committee has two open positions of the seven for a full complement. It is intended there be two representatives each for

Conservation and Planning and Zoning. Interested candidates should contact K. Throckmorton.

- i. Assignment: B. Meehan to mention the open positions at the next Kiwanis meeting.

VI. TREE LEGISLATION

- a. *Assignment:* K. Throckmorton will circulate 'OLR report 2017-R-0221 – Trees Falling onto Neighbor's Land' to the Committee members.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICITY

- a. The Arbor Day Foundation is providing trees at low cost or free to communities. There is a webinar available 22 February at 1 pm providing details of this program. If it is reasonable, we may consider this a Spring event.
 - i. *Assignment:* S. DiLoreto to phone and get more information.
- b. Spring-Fall Newsletter: to work with Arbor Day Foundation on their tree program.
 - i. Assignment (from prior meeting): K. Throckmorton has a draft article and will circulate it for comment.
- c. CTPA has a new website now online with resources and tools.
 - i. *Assignment:* K. Throckmorton to work with L. Cherichetti on this.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

W. Meehan moved and S. DiLoreto seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting which passed 4-0-0; the meeting ended at 5:30 p.m.

The next Tree Committee meeting will be Wednesday 14 March 2018 at 5 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex.

17 February 2018, J. Algon

