

TREE COMMITTEE
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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON TREE COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday September 9, 2020
Videoconference Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Present: Jackie Algon, Suzanne Knutson, Peggy Van Acker, Wayne Gura, Kimberley Young, Susan DiLoreto

Excused: Lars Cherichetti, Scott MacQuarrie

I. CALL TO ORDER - J. Algon called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The minutes of the July 8, 2020 meeting was approved. S. Knutson motioned, and S. DiLoreto seconded.

III. TREE WARDEN REPORT – none

IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

1. The Tree Wardens' tree, which will be planted on Schenck's Island, and the two trees for Alton Johnson, a Dogwood and a White Oak, are waiting for planting approval from Lynne Vanderslice.
2. Development of a spreadsheet for tracking tree maintenance is waiting for input from L. Cherichetti. J. Algon will give W. Gura his contact info for follow up.
3. We hope to begin meeting outdoors in September and October to add tags to town trees. J. Algon has asked for permission from L. Vanderslice. As soon as we have clearance, we will schedule meetings. We have three bricks to place by trees and three bricks to remove from trees that have died.
4. The final version of the donation brochure is ready for our final approval. Board members should send any input to J. Algon. A special thanks goes out to Anne Djupedal for creating this beautiful brochure. We should be ready by the end of the week to send the brochure out as a press release and to have it placed on the Town Tree Committee website.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Reports from subcommittees – none
2. Naming of the 2020 Tree Steward – Mike Conklin has said that his budget has been cut this year due to the Covid virus. We may be able to plant a smaller tree. Do we lose our Tree City Certification if we skip a year of donating a tree to a Tree Warden? J. Algon will check with Liz Larkin and see what the requirements are.
3. Redeveloping “Right Tree Right Place” guidelines for public understanding under Climate Change conditions - M. Conklin and the Board of Selectman are concerned about the number of trees that came down during Isaias. There is a correlation of tree and power loss with placement of trees. Trees should not be planted under wires or within reach of wires. S. Knutson took an assignment to draft an article for the newspaper and Good Morning Wilton on this subject.
4. Tree plantings in opened spaces (areas that have lost trees from recent storms). Trees that have come down in storms leave open space where invasives will come in. We could initiate a volunteer planting day for fast growing trees species and then track their survival. We can look into a resource for trees to plant. This can be a great educational resource. P. VanAcker will explore the possibility of getting small trees from Planters Choice and UConn; J. Algon will find out who provided trees at the Norwalk Tree Festival in the past.

VI. TREE LEGISLATION & LAWS – K. Young will look into any information on the effect of Isaias and the response from Eversource.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY

1. Next Newsletter – P. Van Acker will write an article on fall planting of native shrubs and S. Knutson on planting guidelines for trees. We could also include an ongoing reading list of pertinent articles. The Conservation Commission newsletter went out this week and has informative articles.
2. Preparation of a webinar series on trees during Covid-19 lockdown – we can always add webinar links to the website. J. Algon will add one on the emerald ash borer.
3. Virtual or live tour of Wilton Center with L. Cherichetti and N. Lee – L. Cherichetti said he was willing to do tours sometime soon.

VIII. ADJOURN

W. Gura motioned and S. Knutson seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 pm, approved 6-1-0.