

TREE COMMITTEE  
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TOWN HALL  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

## **WILTON TREE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday October 14, 2020 – 6:00 pm  
Teleconference Meeting

### **Meeting Minutes**

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

Absent: Scott MacQuarrie

- I. J. Algon called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – S. Knutson moved, and P. Van Acker seconded approval of the minutes of the July 8, 2020 meeting as submitted. They were unanimously approved.
- III. TREE WARDEN REPORT  
The state of the town trees is good, no more damage from storms. The town has still been taking down trees and hanging branches from hurricane Isaias. The storms have had more of an effect on private property trees and these trees brought down the majority of overhead wires. The Public Works Department has done a good job of trimming town trees. They have a more efficient strategy for submitting individual trees as they need work rather than through using a monthly report. Ash trees are still dying at a rapid rate. The issue between two neighbors concerning a tree on 35 Dudley Road is being resolved.
- IV. ONGOING BUSINESS
  1. Status of planting the oak tree for the Tree Warden – J. Algon will check with N. Lee.
  2. Status of buying two trees for Alton Johnson – J. Algon is getting quotes from Copia, Hoffman and Tall Trees.
  3. Development of spreadsheet for tracking tree maintenance – L. Cherichetti provided requirements to Wayne Gura. Comments have been forwarded to Wayne and they will proceed.
  4. Schedule date to add tags to trees and take care of bricks – We will meet at the town gazebo October 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.
- V. NEW BUSINESS
  1. Reports from subcommittees - none

2. Redeveloping “Right Tree Right Place” guidelines for public understanding under Climate Change conditions – J. Cole joined the meeting to discuss BOS assignment for the Tree Committee.

Background provided by J. Cole:

At the September 8th Board of Selectmen meeting they discussed the four priorities for the Town for the remainder of this year.

One of the priorities is improved resiliency following weather events and improved public utility services.

The BOS identified the Tree Committee as one of the town's committees which can help implement some changes to accomplish the goal of improved resiliency.

Among the items they would like the Tree Committee to explore are:

1. Proposing an ordinance restricting tree location and height along the road and near wires (Right Tree, Right Place Standards)
2. Proposing zoning changes to reflect the ordinance
3. Implementing/accelerating a Town Tree Removal Plan and increased funding for tree removal.

The Tree Committee can also help with education, including more articles in the paper, posters, flyers and information at the library. The Tree Committee can explore ordinances from surrounding towns. P. Van Acker, S. DiLoreto, S. Knutson and J. Algon will look at other towns and L. Cherichetti will check with the State Urban Forester, Chris Donnelley.

Questions that should be asked of other towns include:

1. Right tree, right place
2. Enforcement
3. What standards are referred to in the ordinance, height, width, Eversource requirements.
4. Public strategy
5. How to fund
6. Get a copy of town ordinances

- V. TREE LEGISLATION & LAWS – K. Young found state regulations on private property tree issues. J. Algon will forward to the committee.
- VI. COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY - none
- VII. ADJOURNMENT - W. Gura moved and S. Knutson seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm, Approved 6-1-0