

TREE COMMITTEE
Telephone (203) 563-0180
Fax (203) 563-0284



TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday December 9, 2020 – 6:00 pm
Teleconference Meeting

Meeting Minutes

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

- I. J. Algon called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The minutes of the November 18, 2020 meeting were approved with the following corrections;
 - 6th line S. Pierce; P. Van Acker and J. Algon will help site trees with Parks and Rec.
 - E. Larkin's and E. Craig's names were changed to E. from L.
 - VII, 1. Latin names should be italicized
 - S. Knutson moved and P. Van Acker seconded.
- III. TREE WARDEN REPORT- L. Cherichetti was unable to attend, but wanted to note that Eversource is planning to be trimming trees on more than 75% of the Town's roads in 2021. We will need to monitor this closely.
- IV. ONGOING BUSINESS
 1. Status of planting the oak tree for the Tree Warden - The white oak will be planted at Merwin Meadows and P. Van Acker will help to determine where it will be planted.
 2. The tree donated by Alton Johnson - The tree will be a pink dogwood and will be planted at the Town Green. The \$850 donation will be used to purchase the \$600 dogwood from Copia and the remainder of the donation will be used to water and maintain the tree.
 3. Development of spreadsheet for tracking tree maintenance – W. Gura has tried to get input from DEEP on software they use that we might use for Wilton. J. Algon called Chris Donnelly at DEEP today to try to get information.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Reports from subcommittees - none
2. Discussion with Joshua Cole from BOS – The Greenwich tree ordinance and their tree policy documents are the most comprehensive of all of the towns’ ordinances we surveyed. The entire Policy and Ordinance portions can be downloaded and printed. J. Cole, J. Algon, P. Van Acker and S. Knutson will have special working meetings in January by Zoom to review these ordinances and come up with suggestions for a Wilton Tree Ordinance that can be forwarded to the Conservation Commission. It will be important to also get input from N. Lee and L. Cherichetti. The Zoom meetings will be on Thursdays in January at 1:00 pm: 1/7/21, 1/14/21 and 1/21/21.
3. Tree plantings in open spaces - Robert Miller has written an article entitled “Connecting the Forest Dots to Make a Whole” that was published in a recent *Bulletin*. This article stresses the importance of connecting forests and open spaces on the East Coast. We should consider a project in Wilton to get trees and shrubs to fill in empty spaces in the town forests. K. Young emphasized the importance of understory native species in the forest. P. Van Acker suggested working with Norwalk River Watershed’s invasive knowledge. J. Algon will continue to research where to obtain trees and shrubs.

J. Algon discussed the planting of American Chestnut trees and the newfound relationship between the trees and a specialist bee.
4. 2021 Meeting Schedule – This will continue to be the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm. K. Young moved and S. Knutson seconded to accept the meeting schedule; approved 4-0-1.
5. 2021 Election of Officers – This has been postponed until the January meeting.

VI. TREE LEGISLATION & LAWS – none

VII. COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY

1. Next newsletter – P. Van Acker’s article on native shrubs. J. Algon has an article on invasives that we can read and discuss next month. We need to come up with a strategy on how to deal with invasive plants in town. K. Throckmorton sent a letter to the Conservation Commission expressing her concern about the proliferation of porcelain berry and Mile-a-minute vine in Wilton.

VIII. ADJOURN

P. Van Acker moved and K. Young seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 pm, approved 4-0-2.

Respectfully submitted by Kimberley Young 12/10/20