

WILTON TREE COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 20, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Present: Jackie Algon, Suzanne Knutson, Peggy Van Acker, Wayne Gura
Excused: Scott MacQuarrie, Kimberley Young; also absent: Lars Cherichetti

- I. J. Algon called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The minutes of the December 9, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved. S. Knutson moved and P. Van Acker seconded.
- III. TREE WARDEN REPORT – L. Cherichetti was unable to attend so discussion was tabled.
- IV. ONGOING BUSINESS – Status of planting various trees:
 1. The Tree Warden oak tree was planted at Miller Driscoll by Nick Lee.
 2. The tree donated by Alton Johnson will be planted at Town Green. J. Algon is reaching out to the Town Green property owners to get permission to plant the tree at this site.
 3. Development of spread sheet to track trees and their maintenance – W. Gura has been successful in contacting a group in Fairfield that might know where we could obtain a software package to collect data on Town trees. Wayne will continue trying, but if the Fairfield group doesn't respond to his inquiries Wayne may try to create a simple database himself.
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 1. Reports from subcommittees – none
 2. Status of developing a Tree Ordinance for Wilton – Discussion tabled in deference to the Special Tree Ordinance Meeting scheduled on Thursday, January 21, 2021.
 3. Possible participation in One Tree Project this coming fall – This is a tree restoration program in which trees would be planted by volunteer groups in Wilton's Town Forests to replace trees lost during storms. Discussion was held on whether to participate in this program. Concerns were raised regarding how to fund the 20% of the cost of the trees not funded by One Tree Project and how to prevent the trees that are planted from deer browsing. Various deer protection ideas were discussed. J. Algon will do further research on how the financials of the One Tree Project work in an effort to determine what the likely costs of such a program would be for the Tree Committee.
 4. 2021 Election of Officers – J. Algon is seeking someone to replace her as Chairperson of the Tree Committee now that she is also Chairperson of the

Conservation Commission. She will remain as Chairperson until such replacement is found.

VI. TREE LEGISLATION AND LAWS -- none

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICITY

1. P. Van Acker to come up with a list of books on trees to provide the Library for an exhibit once they can reopen to the public.
2. Webinars devoted to the discussion of trees to be identified, with links forwarded to the appropriate organizations in town.
3. P. Van Acker finished the article on native shrubs she was writing and will send it out to committee for review with the intention of publishing it in the next Conservation Committee's newsletter. It was suggested that we also submit it to the Wilton Bulletin and Good Morning Wilton to reach a wider audience.

VIII. ADJOURN – Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne Knutson on 1/21/21