

TREE COMMITTEE
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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, February 10, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

Videoconference Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Present: Jackie Algon, Suzanne Knutson, Peggy Van Acker, Wayne Gura

Excused: Scott MacQuarrie, Kimberley Young; also absent: Lars Cherichetti

Also Present: Joshua Cole

- I. J. Algon called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The minutes of the January 20, 2020 meeting, and the three special meetings, were unanimously approved. S. Knutson moved and W. Gura seconded.
- III. TREE WARDEN REPORT – L. Cherichetti was unable to attend so discussion was tabled.
- IV. ONGOING BUSINESS – Status of planting various trees:
 - I. It was decided to try to plant the two trees (dogwood and oak) that have yet to be planted, even though they will require some watering this coming summer.
 - II. Wayne Gura looked into ITree and determined it did not address the needs of record keeping of tree maintenance. He is researching further the available software. Creating our own Google Sheet for Wilton Trees and their maintenance was discussed. This would be available, online, to all, *via* Google Drive. Wayne will contact Nick Lee for suggestions, as well.
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - I. Reports from subcommittees – Peggy Van Acker's article on Native Shrubs for Connecticut Gardens is ready to put in the newsletter.

- II. Jackie asked that each committee member create a small Bio - including information on their qualifications, time in town, why they are members. She will send out a set of questions to answer.
- III. The draft of the Wilton Town Tree Policy and the updated Town of Wilton Tree Ordinance have been completed by Suzanne Knutson, and are posted on the town website. The Wilton Tree Ordinance needed to be updated to reflect the Town of Wilton Tree Policy. All members will review these documents and consider whether there are any changes or additions needed. The need for a Nuisance Ordinance to allow for enforcement of the Town of Wilton Tree Policy was discussed. It was also determined that the town tree wardens need to review and comment on these documents. **There will be a Special Meeting of the Tree Committee on February 23, 2021 to go over the Tree Policy Manual, The Tree Ordinance and a Nuisance Ordinance.**
 - a. It was discussed whether it is possible to legislate the number of trees that can be removed from private property - specifically addressing the clear cutting of property. Could there be a percentage of tree removal which a property owner could not exceed? J. Algon and S. Knutson will look for precedents for this sort of legislation.
- IV. J. Algon presented further information on The One Tree Project. Small trees would cost 20 cents per plant and protectants would be provided for free. Thus, we could plant 200 trees for approximately \$40. We will further consider doing this in the spring.
- V. Tree Legislation and Laws – none
- VI. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICITY
 - P. Van Acker finished the article on native shrubs
- VII. Election of secretary to be postponed to next meeting
- VIII. ADJOURN – Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Van Acker on 2/14/2021