

TREE COMMITTEE
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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON TREE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 10, 2021 – 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

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

- I. J. Algon called the meeting to order at 5:23 p.m.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The minutes of the February 10, 2021 meeting and the February 23, 2021 special meeting were unanimously approved. P. Van Acker moved and W. Gura seconded.
- III. TREE WARDEN REPORT – L. Cherichetti was unable to attend so discussion was tabled.
- IV. ONGOING BUSINESS
 - A. J. Algon will look into planting the two trees that have yet to be planted. S. Knutson stated that the ground is still frozen, so they may not be able to be planted just yet.
 - B. W. Gura discussed creating our own spreadsheet to keep track of the health status and maintenance for Wilton's trees. He asked everyone to send him the information they wanted the spreadsheet to contain. Information needs identified at the meeting included: tree location, donor/honoree, maintenance priorities, and a comments section.
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. S. Knutson discussed the proposed Tree Ordinance and tree policy recommendations to the Board of Selectmen based on their desire to improve the town's resiliency to severe weather events. She will refine the recommendations based on the ensuing discussion and the group's feedback.
 - B. J. Algon raised the subject of clear cutting. The group decided to tackle that issue once the foregoing recommendations to the Board of Selectmen are finalized.

- C. J. Algon mentioned the One Tree Project as a means of funding tree plantings in open spaces that have lost trees from storms. She will get more information on how the One Tree Project works and what funding might be available, with the goal being to seek funding before this fall.

- VI. TREE LEGISLATION & LAWS – J. Algon brought to the group’s attention a letter to CT DOT from the Greenwich Tree Conservancy expressing alarm over extensive tree removal along I-95 to provide a staging area for trucks and equipment while repairs are made to the highway. The Greenwich Tree Conservancy is urging other communities to write to their state delegates to protest and demand that the state provide funding for tree replanting after the work is done. J. Algon will investigate further to see if we still have time to submit a letter to state delegates in a show of support for Greenwich.

- VII. COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICITY – J. Algon mentioned Doug Tallamy’s upcoming free webinar on Sunday, March 28th, from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. The topic is “The Nature of Oaks, The Rich Ecology of our Most Essential Native Trees. It is also the subject of his new book. For more information and the Zoom link to join the webinar, go to: <https://aspetucklandtrust.dm.networkforgood.com/forms/rsvp-doug-tallamy-sunday-brunch/submissions/26770013/confirmation>

- VIII. ADJOURN – W. Gura motioned and P. Van Acker seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:01 p.m. and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne Knutson 3/13/21