

MINUTES OF SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. by Chairman Bruce Graver.

Present were: Phil Cashman, John Winiarski, Bruce Graver, Mark Alpert and Tree Warden, John Lepper. One Commission position remains vacant.

ITEM 1 - Public Comments - None

ITEM 2 - Removals

Since last commission meeting in April, there have been 51 removals.

ITEM 3 - [Minutes of the April 5, 2006 meeting](#) were approved.

ITEM 4 - Communication

- A. Mrs. Walsh, 81 Griswold Road called concerning tree branches overhanging on Griswold Road.
- B. Marian Zewinski, 14 Westlook, called requesting branches overhanging her roof be removed.
- C. Robert Newicki, 83 Robeth Lane called for property line determination.
- D. Kathy Barber, 137 Robeth Lane called to report a town tree fell in her backyard.
- E. Linda Geswaldi, 441 Coppermill Road called concerning problem with neighbor's tree.
- F. Bruce Graver called to report branches on wires at 471 Main Street.
- G. Letter to Neil Walsh, 49 Woodland Street, concerning tree damage at 95 Church Street caused by automobile registered to him.
- H. Memo from Mike Turner concerning tree damage at Town Hall caused by building contractor.
- I. Letter from Linda Pinn, Wethersfield Family LLC concerning tree planting in front of her building on Main Street.
- J. Letter to Mrs. Pinn in response to her concerns.
- K. Letter to Wolodymyr and Kinga Schmyrko seeking reimbursement for damage to town tree near Willard Pool.
- L. Call from John Harold, Griswold Road offering to donate Kousa Dogwood.
- M. Memo to Mike Turner concerning trees planted in Japanese Garden at Town Hall. They do not comply with Town Ordinance.
- N. Letter to James T. Pawlak, 47 Church Street ordering removal of tree planted in Town right of way.
- O. Diane Dow, 35 Meadow View Road called concerning ownership of a tree.
- P. Memos from Town clerk reappointing Bruce Graver and Mark Alpert to this commission.
- Q. Advised Connecticut DOT of tree abuses by property owners on Silas Deane Highway.

ITEM 5 - Tree Warden's Report

- A. Prepared Commission's Annual Report for 2005-2006.
- B. Tagged trees at nursery for spring planting, marked out planting locations, assisted with planting.
- C. Participated in Arbor Day programs at Charles Wright School, Nature Center, and Nature Center vacation camp.
- D. Investigated automobile/ tree accident on Church Street.
- E. Investigated wind-throw on Griswold Road.
- F. Investigated insurance claim on Livingston Street. Wind-throw vs. car and housing electric service.
- G. Investigated insurance claim for damage caused by blocked sewer on Hillcrest.
- H. Reviewed project application for Evangelical Free Church, Maple Street; City Fish, Silas Deane Highway; Dog Park at Millwoods; and Bocci Court at Millwoods.
- I. Monitored sewer project off Ridge Road and Dog Park Development.

- J. Coordinated with Connecticut DOT on drainage project between I-91 and Ezikel Porter Road; and MDC sewer project on Kelly Avenue.
- K. Inspected trees on Lewis, Boulton, Stillman, Reed, Judd, Saxon, Parkview, Wood, Lorraine, and Willow Street and notified property owners with trees overhanging roads that road paving was scheduled.
- L. Made tree ownership determination on four streets and referred others to Engineering.
- M. Posted notices on 50 trees for removal.
- N. Served as panelist at Tree Warden's Association Conference.
- O. Attended Connecticut Tree Protective Association Risk Management Workshop and Summer Conference.
- P. Made tree inspection on (9) streets plus Town Hall

ITEM 6 - Old Business

- A. Spring tree plantings completed. Four trees replaced at Community Center/ Willard Pool complex. Golden Raintree could not be replaced due to lack of availability. Seven trees were planted on Church Street between Main and Silas Deane Highway. A Sergeant Cherry and two Stellar Pink Dogwoods planted as memorial at Highcrest School. A Fort McNair Chestnut planted as memorial at Farms Village Playground. Arbor Day tree was a Cornus Mas Planted at Nature Center.
- B. Approximately (20) trees have been removed so far for Dog Park at Millwoods. Area has been covered with wood chips and will be fenced in shortly.
- C. Bocci Court is proceeding. Some tree damage has been noted. Ultimate impact on trees remains to be seen. Selected site was not favored by Tree Warden.

ITEM 7 - New Business - None

- A. Proposed changes to Town Tree Ordinance were discussed. Changes are needed to bring ordinance in line with changes in Connecticut State Statues and to clarify and strength existing ordinance language.

Cashman moved and Winiarski seconded to adopt proposed changes to the Town Tree Ordinance. Motion passed 4 - 0.

Tree Warden will forward proposed changes to Town Clerk.

- B. Julio Cardoso, 681 Folly Brook Blvd. has complained to Tree Warden that sap drips from pine tree in Town right of way onto his cars in driveway. He would like the Town to resolve the problem.

The trees were apparently planted by previous home owners without Town approval. The trees appear to be vigorous and healthy, presenting no reason for removal.

In consistency with previous Commission policy, Cashman moved and Winiarski seconded that if property owner insists on having the tree removed, that would not normally be considered for removal, the property owner should reimburse the Town for the removal cost. Motion passed 4-0.

Tree Warden will so advise Cardoso.

Having no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

John C. Lepper, CTW
Tree Warden/ Secretary Pro-Term