

## **Minutes of Shade Tree Commission Meeting Wednesday, February 4, 2004**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairman Richard Prentice.

Present were: John Winiarski, Phil Cashman, Bruce Graver, Richard Prentice, Mark Alpert and John Lepper, Tree Warden.

### **ITEM 1 - Removals - There were none this month**

### **ITEM 2 - Minutes**

[Minutes of the January 7, 2004](#) meeting were approved as presented

### **ITEM 3 - Communications**

- A. Lisa Leonard called concerning potential damage to trees on Church Street in connection with MDC work.
- B. Chairman Prentice wrote a follow up letter to Scott Nierendorf reiterating points agreed to during last months hearing regarding trees Nierendorf had planted on Town Right of Way.

### **ITEM 4 - Tree Warden's Report**

- A. In response to Commissioners' questions as to why there were no trees to be inspected, Tree Warden reported that the Town Arborist has fallen behind to do other work assignments, i.e. Christmas decorations, Christmas tree pickup, snow plowing and street lamp maintenance. Extreme cold and high winds on some days were also a factor.
- B. Followed up on Lisa Leonard's call concerning MDC work on Church Street. Some slight damage was noted on a couple of trees.
- C. Accompanied Building Department Brian O'Connor and Fred Valente on inspection of property at 89 Dix Road. Applicant proposes to build a garage near property line with Folly Brook Boulevard Right of Way. Three Town owned trees would be impacted by the construction. Tree Warden recommended to Brian O'Connor that applicant should re-orient the garage to avoid the trees, or sign an agreement releasing the Town from any liability that may occur as result of disturbing the trees.
- D. Town Manager's office is preparing a news release reminding citizens of the law pertaining to planting on Town owned property.

### **ITEM 5 - Old Business**

- A. Spring Planting Plans - Plans are on hold until budget dilemma is worked out. Tree Warden estimates cost of trees Commission plans to plant at about \$3,000.
- B. Commissioner Graver reported on Connecticut Tree Protective Association Annual Conference he and Tree Warden attended. Both were very impressed by Dr. Kim Coder's lecture. Graver also reported on workshop he attended with Dr. Alex Shigo. Both Shigo and Coder emphasized we need to be more concerned about what is going on underground relative to tree health and nutrition.

### **ITEM 6 - New Business**

- A. Chairman Prentice presented an idea for developing a database on trees removed since the Commission started balanced against the number of trees planted, and what the Town will look like in the future relative to its Urban Forest.

### **ITEM 7 - Upcoming Conferences and Workshops**

- A. March, 2004 - Tree Risk Management Policy Workshop, date and location not yet set.

Having no further business to conduct, the Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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