

Westport Tree Board Meeting, April 17, 2019

Attendees: Bruce Lindsay, Ed Picard, Monica Buesser, Dick Stein, Dick Fincher, Peter Kohlbrenner

Approval of minutes 3/20/2019

Lillian Wadsworth Arboretum

Sign dedication: 4/25/19 1PM rain or shine

Storywalk: 4/27/19 10-2, Tree Board in collaboration with Library will present a Storywalk thru the arboretum. Children's activities will be available under the large Norway Maple at the end of the story. Bruce stated that chips could be moved on Friday. Volunteer work day will be April 24, at 10 am to get ready for Arbor Day activities.

4/28/19 – SLOBS will be at arboretum 10-1 to have a general clean up. 10 students and adults.

Arbor Day

Tree give-away at Town Hall 4/25/19 2PM, Lilacs, Norway Spruce, Dogwood (all small trees)
Bruce will provide planting directions.

Planning & Zoning

20-25 Morningside – not reviewed. Representatives left full size copies with Tree Board for review.

641 PRE – Rogers Septic – reviewed and given recommendations

Landscape Review Discussion – Tree Board has requested that Planning and Zoning updated the Greening the Post Road standards so that more trees are planted on Post Road and other commercial corridors. Discussions with Mary Young and Cindy Tyminski. Currently Westport is planting approximately 50 trees per year yet losing over 200.

Beautification

Working to get funds from Beautification to plant trees. Bruce suggested the following article

<https://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-news-connecticut-tree-planting-20190411-oevpg6djpzfd3b2pa54l2wokky-story.html>

Open Space

West Parish

Bruce and Dick Fincher met with (please correct spelling) Pete Ratkiewich, Jen Fava, Alicia Mozian and Daryn Reyman-Locke about West Parish open space. It is a historical site. Suggestions include low impact mowed path around edges of property and historical markers. Peter Kolbrenner stated that those that are interested in history would like the opportunity to visit and find out more about this site and its significance. This site is owned by Westport and is currently under the department of Public Works.

Silent Grove

Private street and a special taxing district. Possibly could use the path without utilizing the private street as there is parking for public fields nearby.

Tree Ordinance

Tree Ordinance is on First Selectman's desk. This ties into beautification of Post Road. Many other towns in Connecticut have tree protection ordinances. This ordinance would give the Tree Warden the ability to care for and protect trees on Westport public property.

Grants

Peoples Bank – working on grant proposal, Bedford Trust – June/July submission

Notable Trees – List of trees seen from public streets. Eversource should not trim Notable trees on public or private property without approval. Recently Lewis trimmed Notable Pagoda Tree without approval

Board Vacancy

Alice Ely – attended meeting (Tracy Yost suggested she attend)

Marcy Caparizzo – had tree farm in Westport (Peter Kohlbrenner neighbor)

Other Business

Staples Interns – 2 will start soon. Will work Monday thru Friday beginning mid May.

Water at LWA – Rain barrel at shed. John Broadband found that there is not a well head but a former water company pipe. Could put a shallow water pump in. Try a Cistern first – Bruce.

Comments from Audience - paraphrased

Morley Boyd: West Parish – historically significant. Not necessarily best practice to advertise and encourage public access. Baron South- Attempting to repurpose mansion with suitable tenant. Dangerous trees removed. Landscape needs to be improved. Bruce – this is not our project, there is a landscape plan, waiting for Senior Center outcome.

Meeting adjourned