

WESTPORT TREE BOARD 12-11-2019

Attendees: Dick Fincher, Ed Picard, Dick Stein, Marci Caporizzo, Alice Ely, Monica Buesser, Bruce Lindsay, Eileen Flug,

Audience: Lou Mall, Brian Stern, Jimmy Izzo

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 11/13/2019 meeting

UPDATE ON TREE ORDINANCE

Eileen Flug presented the revised Tree Ordinance. It has been updated to refer directly to state law concerning Tree Warden's powers and responsibilities. The Tree Board responsibilities have been outlined as determined by selectmen. There are no new powers created by this ordinance. The goal of ordinance is to become eligible for Tree City USA status and therefore be able to apply for grants to plant trees on public property. There are no penalties in this Tree Ordinance but town attorney has determined that Tree Warden has ability to enact regulations that would fine those that damage or destroy public trees. Bruce Lindsay stated that more specific language will be in regulations. His goal is to promote public safety and health in relation to trees.

Lou Mall was concerned that he was not part of writing ordinance. Dick Fincher explained that the town attorney had to review any draft since state law concerning Tree Warden was involved. The final draft ordinance has been submitted to Lou Mall, Jeff Wieser, Brian Stern and Jimmy Izzo for their review. The most recent draft ordinance has been attached to the minutes.

There was a misunderstanding of the funding of the Tree Board. Brian Stern (Board of Finance) and Lou Mall requested more involvement in parks. Bruce Lindsay explained that his position was changed and no longer included any tree work in Parks & Rec or School Board property. He is the only part time Tree Warden in the state of Connecticut. His position only covers street trees on public right of way. There are 120 miles of road in Westport. Brian Stern said \$50,000 was allocated to Tree Warden and it was not all spent. Bruce Lindsay does not have account dedicated to trees therefore money went to Parks & Rec. Parks & Rec allocated approximately \$20,000 to Tree Warden for work at Lillian Wadsworth Arboretum. Lou Mall stated that we are all one town and did not understand why the Tree Warden could not work on all town property. Currently Public Works funds Tree Warden's activities. Parks & Rec. and Board of Ed declined to fund Tree Warden therefore they must hire outside contractor for any tree work.

Lou Mall was concerned about Riverside Park. Bruce Lindsay referred him to Jen Fava at Parks & Rec.

Lou Mall questioned the ordinance calling parcels "property" since Parks & Rec. and School Board do not own property. It is owned by town. Eileen Flug offered to change wording to reflect this.

TREE WARDEN COMMENTS

Tree Removals/plantings – planted 36 trees throughout town.

LWA – A2 survey being done (1st step in getting landscape plan)

UPDATES

LWA Brochure-Marci Caporizzo was working on brochure, a larger three fold with map on back. Possibly with barcode for further information. Suggested bar codes on informational signs in park.

LWA street signage- 4 directional signs ordered

P&Z – Resturant 323 – adding deck, they have no landscape plan. There is limited area to plant. Perhaps one tree in back next to street.

Volvo – Dick Stein commented that it was a bad plan. Nothing is show on parking lot side. Still trying to get Volvo to replace 5 dead plum trees in front.

Notable Trees NA

RECOGNITION

Builders Beyond Borders worked on 10/16/19 to restore Eloise A Ray Trail at LWA. Thank you 3B!

ADJOURN – HAPPY HOLIDAYS!