

Westport Tree Board 2-19-2020

ATTENDEES: Dick Fincher, Dick Stein, Ed Picard, Monica Buesser, Alice Ely, Peter Kohlbrenner, Marci Caporizzo, Jim Marpe, Becky Newman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 1/15/2020

TREE WARDEN REPORT

RFP for Landscape architect plan for LWA is out and bids are in

31 Sylvan Road North-Trees cut down without authorization, a consultant has been called in to provide a full assessment. Bruce calculated preliminary numbers into 6 figures. The town lawyers, Bertrum, Moses & Delvin have the information and will handle this case. Work has been stopped till violations have been corrected.

While unfortunate this will provide us with opportunity to publicize town policies regarding trees in the public right of way.

In town our Notable Trees have a value of possibly millions of dollars.

Tree Removals and Plantings

Eversource removed 10 trees on Sylvan. These were replaced. 40 trees were planted last year.

School bus hit tree that was actually in Norwalk.

Morningside – large tree was removed. Will replace, but with regular planting not individually.

Earth Animal – wants to pay for trees for Earth Day/Arbor Day April 24

LWA signage and brochure

Street signs in process. Old brochure will be updated and printed. New brochure will be made to highlight landscape plan including meadow, LWA History, trail map, seasonal interest

TREE ORDINANCE

Lou Mall, Jimmy Izzo, Jeff Wieser sponsoring

Ask Pete Ratkiewich make presentation to RTM

Making a petition to give to Tree Board members to circulate to present to RTM

Tree ordinance first step in becoming Tree City USA and enhancing grant availability, also it has started the process of creating regulations specifically related to town trees.

GRANTS – Westport Garden Club previously gave grant for fencing at arboretum. This year apply for money to plant trees possibly in Imperial Ave parking lot.

Reugg Grant draft – review for any changes

P & Z

Temple/Hillspoint – Dick Stein has reviewed

GF Plaza 1460 Post Road East – want to cut everything down for parking, not enough trees on plan

The Mill on Richmondville – Millbrook 70 Green Giant Arborviate 5 ft apart – too close- recommend 10 ft apart or to stagger line of evergreens

NOTABLE TREES N/A

OTHER/NEW BUSINESS

Selectman Jim Marpe wanted more information on tree protection ordinance. Dick Fincher stated that the ordinance would help the Tree Warden with enforcement. It follows state statute defining tree management rules. It would allow Westport to qualify as a Tree City USA opening up grant opportunities. The state of Connecticut allows the Tree Warden to set town regulations regarding trees. Regulations would be separate from ordinance and the tree warden would work with the town attorney (Eileen Flug) to set appropriate regulations regarding town owned trees.

Marci Caporizzo would like the Tree Board to have education sessions, possibly working with schools on a tree project.

GUEST COMMENT

Becky Newman from Earthplace asked if they could take data samples in LWA for a research project they are doing on deer exclosures.