

## WESTPORT TREE BOARD MEETING 3-17-21

**Attendees:** Dick Stein, Peter Kolbrenner, Ed Picard, Monica Buesser, Marci Caporizzo, Alice Ely, Peter Ratkiewich

### I. WELCOME

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 2/17/2021

- a. Minutes were approved

### III. TREE WARDEN REPORT

- a. Arbor Day, on 4/30/21, will have a Tree Planting at the Police & Fire stations
  - i. A small ceremony will take place to mark Arbor Day and submit to the Tree City USA organization as part of Westport's Tree City participation
- b. LWA: Bruce Lindsay will request that large fallen trees/hangers be removed from Lillian Wadsworth Arboretum (LWA) prior to Arbor Day and the scheduled work day on May 2.
- c. Bruce will investigate whether a small giveaway of native saplings in commemoration of Arbor Day may be possible at Town Hall in a 'contactless' manner such as a drive-through.

### IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a. As part of a planned monthly informational communication on trees, the chairman included information regarding Native Trees of Connecticut gleaned from <https://ctpa.org/connecticuts-native-trees/>
  - i. Monica Buesser shared information from ctpa.org on the 10 most common native trees growing in CT, of which red maples are #1.
- b. There continues to be an open position on the Tree Board and members are encouraged to share this availability with the public. The responsibilities of the tree board are to be found at <https://www.westportct.gov/government/appointed-boards-a-z/tree-board>
- c. Monica is creating a new story walk for Arbor Day using a book from the Library titled *In the Woods*.

**V. P & Z ACTIVITY – Dick Stein**

- a. No contact or requests have been received from P&Z in the past month. Dick will reach out to them regarding upcoming projects which may impact town trees.

**VI. TEEN VOLUNTEER GROUPS – Alice Ely**

- a. SLOBS – LWA May 2. Alice reported to the board on the planned workday scheduled for May 2, from 10:00 am -12:30 pm, in which parents and boys will volunteer to help clear invasives and debris, and spread wood chips, at the LWA. It is anticipated that a group of 10-20 SLOBS & parents will volunteer to help.
  - i. Members of the Board who are able will direct the work on that day.
  - ii. Dick Stein reported that in addition to the three wheelbarrows, 6 shovels and forks available at the LWA shed, he will supply additional tools for the group's use on that day.
- b. A second workday in the late summer was proposed for removal of invasive Japanese stiltgrass at LWA, e.g. "Stiltgrass Sunday" – a date needs to be set.
  - i. Alice Ely will contact environmentally-focused clubs and teachers at Staples to assess their interest in participating

**VII. NOTABLE TREES – Dick Stein**

- a. Dick reported that the Connecticut Notable Tree site has posted notice of Westport's having the largest Sugar Maple in CT, designated a state champion. The tree is located on private property in a back yard on Wright Street. It may be observed without trespassing. The property's new owners should be informed of the tree's status. If possible, they will be given a Notable Tree certificate.

**VIII. CONTACT WITH OTHER RELEVANT COMMITTEES – Ed Picard**

- a. Ed will look into possible synergies/learnings from neighboring towns' tree board initiatives

**IX. Peter Kohlbrenner**

- a. Discussion was held on the recourse to be had for individuals attempting to cut down town trees, as occurred on Sylvan Avenue. Members and the public should be alert to such instances and report them to the tree warden. The tree board will seek to educate and inform the residents of Westport about public trees so indiscriminate tree removal does not occur.

- b. Problematic (diseased, damaged or dying) trees on town property should be reported to the tree warden. Trees which need to be removed are posted for a certain number of days before removal.

**X. EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH – Marci Caporizzo**

- a. Marci shared a report with a host of potential ideas for raising awareness of tree care and conservation to the public.
- b. The ability to share such information with the public depends on what can be included in the Tree Board’s town website page. Owing to time constraints, this topic will be pursued further at next month’s meeting.
- c. Monica will check with Eileen Zhang who maintains the website and request to add informational links to the page.

**XI. New Business**

- a. Monica will explore what other additions to the Tree Board page on the town website may be allowable.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT.**