

## **Westport Tree Board 12-15-2021**

### **Welcome**

**Attendees:** Ed Picard, Monica Buesser, Frank Rosen, Peter Kohlbrenner, Ben Sykas, John Broadbin, Lou Mall, Becky Newman, Marie Rossi, Dave Lowrie,

### **Tree Warden Report**

Bruce Lindsey has resigned and Ben Sykas will take over his post on Jan 1 2022.

Ben Sykas reported that 27 trees were planted. Currently looking for a new tree vendor to get more variety and better quality. Ben is working to develop the tree planting program, he has an appointment with the Fairfield Tree Warden to discuss their strategy.

The Tree City USA plaque and signs are at Town Hall and will be installed.

There have been numerous tree inspections done recently. Winter tree pruning/structural pruning will be done in January.

Dick Stein asked whether the town can trim trees originating on private property but overhanging the road. Ben Sykas stated that it depends on several factors and each incidence would have to be addressed individually.

Ed Picard asked whether the town GIS system could be utilized to determine if the tree in front of your house is a town tree. Ben Syskas responded that GIS system is not accurate with small measurements, especially in north/south direction. Therefore homeowner should use their survey map to determine.

Monica Buesser asked that the planting specifications for trees be updated to include deer protection, water bag, and stakes if needed. Also that future plantings be at appropriate depth. Ben is planning to update specifications.

Dick Stein asked about the possible reconfiguration of Jesup Green. The large Oaks must be saved if parking lot is moved.

### **Chairman's Report**

#### **Open spot on Tree Board**

Tree City USA application filed by Eileen Flug.

Promoting Notable Trees – next year Frank Rosen & Dick Stein will promote the Notable Tree of the Month. Ed Picard noted that we should have picture of tree at Town Hall.

Bylaws – will contact Public Works

Would like to meet with Jen Tooker soon

Staples Intern? – could be utilized to help us get up to date computer wise (rather than just mulch trails)

Newtown Tree Ordinance – utilizes Native trees and shrubs, requires replacement of trees cut down, something to consider in future

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**Arbor Day** – Friday, April 29, 2022 (Mayple?) Give out different types of native maple trees

**Notable Trees** – Dick Stein, no new trees to report.

**Contact with other relevant committees**

Monica Buesser spoke with Danielle Dobin and Micheal Kiselak from Westport Planning and Zoning Commission. They are working on a regulation to curb clear cutting. Clear cutting is a major cause of erosion and can exacerbate flooding. Therefore, they are looking at implementing a plan to protect the trees and shrubs in the setback areas of a lot.

**New Business**

Jimmy Izzo letter – it makes sense to consolidate Tree Warden role in town

Dave Lowrie is interested in position on Tree Board