

WESTPORT TREE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 17, 2022, 4:30PM

I. **WELCOME**

II. **ATTENDEES:** Monica Buesser, Ed Picard, Dick Stein, Frank Rosen, Dave Lowrie, Becky Newman, Marie Rossi

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 01 /20/2022**

IV. **TREE WARDEN REPORT – Ben Sykas**

Ben is at a conference and was not be able to attend this month. His current request of the Tree Board is listed below.

- Finding a grant that the town can apply for regarding a tree inventory for the town right-of-way (TROW) and Public Works properties.

Tree Board will work to find grants applicable to Tree Inventory

- Putting together information on how to hire an arborist AND tree work in the TROW needs a permit. Several of the violations that I have been investigating have had work completed by a licensed arborist (no permit). The work however was not to ANSI standards or best management practices. I would like to find a way to educate how to hire an arborist and why it's important as well as the need for a permit. I might be able to get some of these pamphlets (link below), but don't know if they are an exact fit. Maybe we can make our own? <https://www.treesaregood.org/shop/brochures>. Hopefully, this will help prevent poor pruning. I've also attached a copy of the permit required for tree work in the TROW.

Tree Board will look up examples of tree brochures and find appropriate material in time for Arbor Day activities April 23.

V. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

a. Arbor Day – Friday, April 29, 2022

Bartlett has agreed to provide 100 Red Maples & 100 Dogwoods free of charge

Westport Book Shop having Spring event on Jesup Green April 23. Several members of the board volunteered to attend this event and give out trees.

Tree Give away at town hall on Friday April 29, Will ask Ben Sykas to get approval from town

Educational Program – Earthplace has several events planned for end of April. We will work on way to participate.

b. Welcome Dave Lowrie to Tree Board

c. Tree City USA Growth Award 2022 – checklist for future grant

<https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/growth-award/>

Keep checklist updated- information from Danica Dombroski (Urban Forestry/Tree City USA rep) indicated that we can get award for 10 points or more.

d. Guidelines for Tree Board – proposed, have asked Eileen Flug if guidelines are appropriate

e. Meet with Jen Tooker – still pending

f. Staples Intern/Eagle Scout project LWA – Scout is working on project

g. Grant opportunity from Aquarion. 2022 Aquarion Environmental Champion Award – up to \$5000, business/nonprofit/adult/student – details should be available soon

VI. NOTABLE TREES –Dick Stein & Frank Rosen

Frank Rosen – will contact Eileen Zhang with permission to post Oak Tree story on town youtube – awaiting information as to whether they will allow a link to Channel 12 news story to be on town site

We can produce our own video for Notable trees and have them posted on town site- Frank working on getting own equipment to film videos. Winter tree ideas/ID trees by branching/bark

VII. CONTACT WITH OTHER RELEVANT COMMITTEES/Groups

Dave Lowrie – report on Zoning Regulation Revision subcommittee (P&Z)-We did not get advance meeting notice. Dave Lowrie contacted M. Kizlack and got link 15 minutes before meeting. Latest meeting for the most part very supportive of tree protection, except Mr. Keenan who felt that ordinance might be too intrusive. Ordinance is still being refined.

Dave Lowrie – report on contact with Downtown Implementation Plan Committee. Work on Jesup Green could negatively impact several large oaks (and pines) on Jesup Green. They also proposed a TREE Tour. We could help with that. Dave will contact committee and get more information to the board.

VIII. FUTURE EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Arbor Day - Earthplace – Is it available? host a webinar or lecture on the tools needed to hire an arborist/what is town ROW/other tree topics

Builders/Contractors - reasons to avoid clearcutting-need board member to help with this project

IX. New Business

Raised Bill No. 5116 (February session 2022)

Bill to require electrical distribution company to distribute funds to towns to replace trees cut due to vegetation management.

This bill is currently being discussed. Eversource could be required to fund tree planting in the future.

ADJOURNMENT