

WESTPORT TREE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, April 21, 2022, 4:30pm

- **WELCOME**
- **Attendees:** Ed Picard, Monica Buesser, Ben Sykas, Dick Stein, Alice Ely, Dave Lowrie, Becky Newman
- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 04/21/2022**
- **TREE WARDEN REPORT – Ben Sykas**
 - a. Small tree pruning on town rights of way to begin last week in April, also doing a larger oak
 - b. Warden advised all to be on lookout for spotted lanternfly; its presence has been reported in CT so cannot move wood in or out of state. Host tree is the invasive ailanthus but egg masses are also found on other trees and even buildings. Removal of ailanthus trees is advisable. Hops and fruit trees can also be a host.
- Still pending – Find a grant for a tree inventory

- **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**
 - a. The chair spoke with Doug Williams of Bartlett, whose co. is supplying free trees for Arbor Day events in April.
 - b. Arbor Day – Friday, April 29, 2022

Bartlett has agreed to provide 100 Red Maples & 100 Dogwoods free of charge; Ben Sykas obtained free informational brochures from the arborists’ association on different aspects of tree care for distribution to the public.

Westport Book Shop having Spring event on Jesup Green April 23. 10:30- noon
Tree board members to join and give away trees/have other tree activity.

Tree Give away at town hall on Friday April 29 3PM-4PM – Tree City
Proclamation to be read by First selectwoman Jen Tooker.

Educational Program – Earthplace April 30 3PM – 4PM, Doug Zitnay, arborist from Darling Gardens to speak about general tree care

Story walk is installed at Lillian Wadsworth Arboretum.

- c. Ongoing - Tree City USA Growth Award 2022 – checklist for future grant <https://www.arboday.org/programs/treecityusa/growth-award/>

Keep Tree City USA checklist updated

- d. New Bylaws for Tree Board read by Chair. Highlights discussed: Members are appointed by First Selectman but Tree Board can recommend. At the discretion of the elected officials, members can be removed. One clarification re grant seeking: Board can identify the opportunities and provide supporting information so that the tree warden can apply for the relevant grants. Tree board bylaws are governed by the Town charter and adopted by the Westport Tree Board. The Tree board is to maintain a list of residents interested in tree board activities. Final vote on bylaws will require the full membership of the tree board.

- **NOTABLE TREES –Dick Stein & Frank Rosen**

Frank Rosen –We can produce our own videos for Notable trees and have them posted on town site. This will be done in May as Dick Stein’s and Frank Rosen’s schedules permit.

- **CONTACT WITH OTHER RELEVANT COMMITTEES/Groups**

Dave Lowrie – Publicity has achieved considerable press pickup re Earth Week and Arbor Day activities.

- **FUTURE EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH**

Town website – need to create informative page with links to general tree information AND about town trees on right of way. Tree board can develop informative content and it will be added to the website. Fairfield and Greenwich websites cited as good examples. To be tackled post Arbor Day activities.

On 5/15 the Tree Board will lead a group of SLOBS from Staples in LWA cleanup.

- **New Business**

Develop right of way tree planting program like Fairfield that allows residents to pick/buy appropriate trees for the town right of way in front of their house. It could work as follows: residents can choose from a short list of approved trees, available at reasonable cost to residents; an approved entity would be in charge of planting. Thereafter the tree is the property of the town but the residents can thus beautify the ROW to the front of their property. Fairfield's program affords 300-400 trees per year to be added to the town's canopy; a cost effective way to supplement limited municipal resources for tree planting. Resident must agree to water/protect the tree. Ben Sykas will contact Fairfield to learn specifics. Hoping to implement by fall or spring 2023.

Dick Stein is looking into funds (from ARPA allocation) to apply to LWA cleanup, particularly to control invasives. The Selectman's office controls the funds. Dick also looking into a mulch supplier to identify costs.

ADJOURNMENT