

Westport Tree Board 05-19-2022 Minutes

Attendees: Monica Buesser, Ben Sykas, Ed Picard, Dick Stein, James Corley (only 3 members of Tree Board therefore not a quorum so nothing was voted on but informal sharing of information and ideas continued)

MINUTES FROM 04/21/2022 – not voted on

TREE WARDEN REPORT – Ben Sykas:

Spongy Moth/aka Gypsy Moth has been found in Litchfield County. It can be very destructive to many tree species. It is treated with Milky spore.

Small tree pruning has been done. Ed commented that it was done very professionally.

Dick Stein asked about Beech trees declining. It is Beech Leaf disease, there is no treatment for this yet.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Monica Buesser

How can we improve **Arbor Day** Events?

Westport Bookshop on Jesup Green well attended

Town Hall Tree Giveaway – not as many people came to get trees

Educational seminar- poorly attended, perhaps different venue/ideas for next year

Ben Sykas suggested going to schools to give away trees. He proposed talking to 1st and 2nd graders at a Tree planting assembly and giving away trees at school. This would have to be proposed to appropriate member at school board.

Raffle a large tree?

Dave Lowrie suggested that Tree Board have a book group with library and read/discuss Doug Tallamy book on Oak Trees.

Website update – need a framework, will talk with Eileen Zhang

Link to Permit

Link to Report a Tree Issue

Link to Town Policy on Trees

Link to Tree Warden page – explanation of what Tree Warden does/contact

Link to Tree Board

List Tree Board events

AND other Tree related information

NEW TREE PLANTING IDEA-

<https://www.fairfieldct.org/treeplanting>

Develop tree planting program like Fairfield that allows residents to pick/buy appropriate trees for the town right of way in front of their house. Fairfield charges resident \$200 for 2 – 2 1/2 inch caliper tree planted in the town right of way in front of resident’s house. The trees are planted by a company contracted by the town. Resident can choose appropriate type of tree from list dependent on whether there are electric wires present. Other utilities (water, sewer, underground electric, gas) also have to be considered when planting. . This allows residents to immediately plant/replace trees on the TROW rather than have to wait years for town to plant in their area. It also gives the residents quality trees at a very reasonable cost. Because the trees are “wanted” by the resident they are more likely to be watered and therefore survive and thrive.

The Tree Board will work on this proposal and Ben Sykas will present it to the Public Works Department and the Selectwoman’s Office for review.

CONTACT WITH OTHER RELEVANT COMMITTEES/Groups

Dave Lowrie –Downtown committee will be discussing Jesup Green reworking. Dick Stein concerned about the two large oaks that are probably over 200 years old being compromised or taken down.

James Corley – Interested in position on Tree Board

ADJOURNMENT