

WESTPORT TREE BOARD Minutes 01-19-2023

ATTENDEES: Ben Sykas, Monica Buesser, Margret Friedman, Ed Picard, Frank Rosen, Jim Corley, Dick Stein
Becky Newman (Earthplace)

MINUTES FROM 11/17 /2022 were approved

TREE WARDEN

Intern to help with street tree inventory was not approved by Public Works due to safety concerns.

Tree City USA application has been filed for 2022.

Growth Award application is in process, Ben has spoken to Danica about timing.

Attended CTPA Conference <https://ctpa.org/> today.

There is a new foliar treatment for Beech Leaf Disease. It is not as effective for a forest or very large tree. Treatment must be timed appropriately and it is currently costly.

At the conference they also said that due to climate change and the warming of our zone, tree species for planting should be reviewed and able to tolerate warmer temperatures. Also pests of trees will be more prevalent since they can overwinter in warmer temperatures and begin life cycle earlier. Birds will not be coming earlier to eat them and this will throw off balance of nature.

Dick Stein questioned whether the Sycamore in Saugatuck could be saved. It is on state property so the state has the ultimate decision making process. We will contact our state Forestry representative to rally for the 200 ish year old tree.

Ben also mentioned that there is a form to fill out for all problem trees on state property (Post Road, etc),

LINKS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Climate Information:

- <https://www.davey.com/climate-change/>
- Westport's hardiness zone projected change: <https://hardinesszones.daveyinstitute.com/>
- Climate zone change north east: https://www.davey.com/media/t20nwe5f/davey_climate_change_northeast_projections.pdf
- Climate resilient trees- Look at the NY, PA and MA lists: <https://www.davey.com/media/nwgkw1sn/climate-facing-trees-guide-for-us-metropolitan-areas.pdf>

2. Reporting trees to the state on state roads:

Department of Transportation

- Go to Connecticut Official State Website (<https://portal.ct.gov>)
- In search bar type Customer Care Center

- Click on first link and fill out Form

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We are looking for interested individuals for the tree board.

Arbor Day 2023, Friday April 28

Trees will be given away at Town Hall at 3:30 to 4:30. Arbor Day Proclamation will be read. Hopefully Doug Williams (Bartlett) will once again donate trees. Eversource can also donate smaller stature trees.

Ben will investigate the possibility of speaking with 2nd ? graders about trees at an elementary school in town. Trees would be given away to the children. A tree could also be planted at that school if approved. We could rotate schools and grades and eventually every class and school would have a tree.

We are investigating other areas to give away trees...possibly the Westport Garden Club plant sale (Jesup Green May 13, 2023.

Our meetings will remain on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 4:30PM in room 201.

NOTABLE TREES –Dick Stein & Frank Rosen

No new notable trees, but they plan to do a video on several large Sycamores in town including the large one in Saugatuck

Tree Board Website – Jim Corley

New content is ready to update current site with more information. Currently awaiting legal review.

ADJOURNMENT