

## WESTPORT TREE BOARD Minutes 4/20/2023

Attendees: Ed Picard, Dick Stein, Frank Rosen, Tree Warden Ben Sykas

Audience: Becky Newman

Called to order: 4:36 pm

Minutes: 04/20/23 approved

Tree Warden Ben Sykas Present and reported on tree planting at KHS Elementary School. In addition Ben spoke about the upcoming Arbor day events including a tree giveaway at KHS (various White Oaks and ornamentals) Ben will be speaking to the second grade classes at KHS about the importance of considerate tree planting as it relates to forestry and tree canopy renewal. Eversource will provide 350 trees to KHS, various dogwoods and cherry trees to be given away in concert with Ben's educational talk.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Ed Picard Acting Chairperson led the meeting in Monica Buesser's absence from the board.

Ed spoke of continued plans for the Arbor Day tree giveaway at Town Hall to take place on April 28, 2023 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Approximately 150 trees will be handed out at Town Hall, possibly in the front of Town Hall provided recent construction allows for the convenient gathering. Ben Sykas will provide signage. Local publications will be provided with press releases to preview the event.

A proclamation by the First Selectwoman is anticipated for the Arbor Day Town Hall event.

Ed Picard and Dick Stein noted the Tree Board Vacancies and Ben Sykas said that Second Selectwoman Andrea Moore had several possible candidates to be vetted for vacancies.

NOTABLE TREES – Dick Stein and Frank Rosen. Dick Stein noted the mature flowering Empress Trees (approximately four) on Roseville Rd had been cut down. No progress has been made on the Sycamore Tree video from Frank Rosen.

CONTACT WITH OTHER RELEVANT COMITTEES/GROUPS/INDIVIDUALS – nothing new was reported

FUTURE EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH – Tree Warden Ben Sykas suggested a tree video be considered for 'how to plant trees'.

NEW BUSINESS – Dick Stein voiced his disapproval for the lack of input by the Tree Board for any Town Landscaping/Tree Planting Schemes in the works. In addition, he noted there is a lack of review by the Tree Board for any formal Town Tree Planting Programs in concert with approved development projects within the town. He noted local developers approved for construction and landscaping projects are not held accountable for lack of adherence to tree replanting standards or defined rules for replanting of dieback during tail end of development projects.

Additionally, Dick spoke of RTM member Lou Mall's interest to coordinate an effort to mow, wood chip debris, and remove invasive species at the Lillian Wadsworth Arboretum. The Arboretum abuts Earthplace. Becky Newman said children enrolled in Earthplace programs were unable to navigate the abundance of weed like overgrowth and invasive thorny plants that had taken over pathways the children would take to the visit the Arboretum.

Audience member Becky Newman noted when the Tree Board has acquired additional members, the board should seek to redefine/clarify its' intended charge and purpose within the town guidelines.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.