

WESTPORT TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Westport Town Hall, Room 309

Wednesday, July 22, 2015, 4:30pm

Meeting called to order at 4:34pm

Board Members in Attendance: Bruce Lindsay (Tree Warden), Peggy Sawyer (Secretary), Ed Pickard, Dick Stein, Gary Spector, Peter Kolbrener, Tricia Rubenstein, Karen Kleine

Also in Attendance: Lou Mall, RTM District 2 and Member of the Community (Compo Acres)

- Introduction and Welcome to new board members
- Officers and Terms: Bruce is willing to act as Chair temporarily but hopes that someone else will volunteer.
- April 22nd Meeting Minutes: Approve and Accept: Ed motioned to approve the minutes and Dick seconded.
- “Lillian Wadsworth Arboretum”; Update Bruce: Bruce began with some background and a description of the land. A \$9000 Grant has been approved by the State of CT and Bruce has matched that with \$9000 of his own Town-budgeted funds. Work has begun on this space, to be completed by March of 2016 per the Grant conditions. Lou Mall, one of the RTM members of District 2 (the Arboretum is located in this district), spoke about his interest in the project both personally and as a Representative and provided some history on Ms Wadsworth.
- Memorial Tree Planting Program; Fund Source for the Arboretum and future maintenance: Bruce would like the trees proposed as a fundraising opportunity on Veterans’ Green to be planted instead at the Arboretum. Benches and gates could be included and available for purchase as well. There would be a finite number of items available so that funds could be raised over time as opposed to only at the beginning of the project. The Tree Board will be responsible for maintenance. Earthplace is secondary.
- Press Release□FYI Programs: Bruce would like us to showcase what we are working on and raise the visibility for the Board and its role as a whole. Peggy and Ed brought examples of flyers as a reference for a general mailing to all in town, to developers and builders, and/or to Westportnow.com and the 06880 blog. Tricia volunteered to help Bruce work on this. In the future Bruce would like the Board to be able to review commercial and subdivision site plans and make recommendations as to the landscaping. Several members acknowledged that the Board would need both the

authority and the power to enforce any recommendations. Bruce hopes we can amend our charter to address these concerns.

- 2015 Tree Plantings-Bid Awarded to Eastern Land Management-38 Trees planted: Many new trees have been planted at Veterans' Green, Main St, Jesup Rd, and Green's Farms School, among other locations. Bruce's budget is \$260,000, about \$10 per person in taxes.

- Notable Tree Update: Dick has logged over 30 trees in town so far and he is continuously updating this list. The trees are included on: notabletrees.conncoll.edu/

- Main Street Update: Bruce noted that over 25 trees have been planted from Rt 1 to Parker-Harding Plaza as part of a grant. This also include bricks, lamps, soil and treeator bags.

- Plant Science Day 2015 - Wednesday August 5, 2015 - Lockwood Farm, Hamden: This is an all-day free event for anyone interested in learning more about trees. Go to <http://www.ct.gov/caes/cwp/view.asp?a=2824&q=566128> for more info.

- Comments/Adjourn: Peggy motioned to adjourn, Tricia seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 6:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Kleine for Peggy Sawyer, Secretary