

Tree Board Minutes

July 18, 2024

Town Hall, RM 201, 4:30

In attendance: Dick Stein, Ed Picard, James McLoughlin, Sarah Adair, Ben Sykas (over zoom), & John Broadbin.

Dick motioned to approve June minutes. Ed seconded motion. All approved.

Ben gave the Tree Warden report. He received an email from Sustainable Westport requesting information on best ways to eradicate the Spotted Lantern Fly (SLF). The Tree Board agreed that although more SLF are being found in Westport this summer, CT DEEP's approach to the SLF has not changed much since last year's discussion of the SLF and its attraction to the Atlantis Tree. Ben pointed out that it would be helpful to post information on identifying the Atlantis Tree, the Walnut Tree and Hickory trees since they look similar and the SLF feeds on the Atlantis Tree. While some advocate eliminating the Atlantis Tree to rid the SLF of a food source, others point out that the SLF will feed off other more valuable trees, vines and plants if the Atlantis is gone.

Ben reported that the CT Tree Protection Association sponsored a discussion on the future of Beech Trees. The talk offered information on different treatments of Beech Leaf Disease. Ben has information on the different treatments for anyone interested.

Ben also provided the board with information on the use of AI to inventory trees along city streets. Stamford is currently using AI software using lidar to collect hundreds of data points to determine the location of trees, the height and canopy cover of street trees. The software can provide 3D scans of the trees along streets to determine any hazards posed by trees, when to prune trees, and clearance of utility wires.

The Board then reviewed several Canva revisions of tree ID signs. It was agreed that the spacing of the font in the words would be tightened up. Sarah for notable points on the different trees to be put on the individual tree signs. Members reviewed the draft of the proposal to the Parks and Rec Commission. They suggested adding Sassafras trees, Cornelian Cherries, Tulip trees, Serviceberry trees and Northern Catalpa trees.

There is no Tree Board meeting for August.

James chose the Black Walnut tree to highlight for the tree of August and John chose the Canada Yew for the tree for September on the webpage.

Ed motioned to adjourn and James seconded. All agreed to adjourn.