

WESTPORT TREE BOARD MEETING, JULY 27, 2016, 4:30 P.M.
WESTPORT TOWN HALL, ROOM 201

In Attendance: Tricia Rubenstein (chair), Dick Stein, Dick Fincher, Ed Picard, Lori Meinke, Al Gratrix and Bruce Lindsay (Tree Warden).

Meeting called to order at 4:35 p.m.

Minutes from May 25 meeting were accepted and approved.

One guest, Robert Fatherley, attended meeting – extended an invitation to the Board to visit the Kathryn Ordway Preserve in Weston, with a goal of sharing information regarding local arboretums.

Thank you to Board Member Dick Stein for creating a bench made from milled black locust wood from the Lillian Wadsworth Arboretum. The bench was purchased. Dick Fincher will investigate possible participation by Staples High School woodworking students (Technology Education department) in a collaboration to build wood products from LWA wood.

Notable Trees –Bruce Lindsay noted a Weeping Hemlock on Evergreen Ave.

Veterans Green Update – sidewalks and a staircase to Main Street are on the agenda.

Town Hall Improvement – currently on hold.

Tree Warden awaiting arrival of second grant, and will be pursuing marketing, fundraising, increased volunteer support, kiosk creation, maintenance, and approved footbridge construction at the LWA in the fall.

Town Ordinances – goal of the Tree Board is to assess then to submit to Gail Kelly, Town Attorney.

Note regarding defined duties of the Tree Board - Includes oversight of Lillian Wadsworth Arboretum.

New Business:

Al Gratrix will be presenting Text Amendment 720 with appropriate changes to the Planning and Zoning Commission on July 28, 2016, for a vote.

The Westport Parks and Recreation Department and the Friends of the Parks and Rec have instituted the Westport Arbor Program, with input from Tree Warden Bruce Lindsay. Trees will be planted at Compo Beach, Burying Hill Beach and Grace K. Salmone Park. The Lillian Wadsworth Arboretum will remain separate from the town parks.

Evergreen Ave. residents have shown interest in planting trees in their neighborhood, funded through private donations. Bruce Lindsay did a walk-through with a neighborhood representative.

Consensus was reached by the Board to name the non-profit, “Westport Ever-Green.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Lori Meinke, Dick Fincher