

THE MILFORD TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of the January 12, 2009 Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

Commission Members Present:	Irwin Langewisch, Acting Chairman Kate Orecchio, Acting Vice Chairman Mary Ludwig George Noyes
Alternates:	Bryan Mancini
Arrived late:	James Malaney
Absent:	Dave Skirkanich, Alternate
Recording Secretary:	Lynne McNamee

B. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairman Langewisch called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

C. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

B. Mancini made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections. M. Ludwig seconded the motion. The minutes from the December 8, 2008 meeting were approved with changes.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- B. Mancini asked about alternates and when alternates can vote. I. Langewisch responded that when a Commissioner is absent, an alternate is designated as voting in that Commissioner's place. Otherwise, the alternates may comment, but not vote on matters.

E. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- I. Langewisch welcomed George Noyes to the Milford Tree Commission. George will serve a three year term ending December 2011. He was advised of the training requirements and opportunities offered by the DEP and UConn, and other institutions.

F. TREE WARDEN REPORT

- Not present.
- I. Langewisch referenced the email he sent to the Commissioners regarding the Evergreen trees taken down behind the Racket Club on the Post Road. The removal of about half a dozen trees was in late Spring/Early Summer. The incident was reported by Lou Horowitz, who called the State, who referred the matter to the Tree Commission via I. Langewisch. The Racket Club would like to donate money to compensate for the cut trees; they had not realized they were City trees. After discussion, the Commissioners recommended a donation be made to Milford Trees, Inc. designated for tree planting and related expenses. K. Orecchio inquired who should write the letter to the Racket Club. I. Langewisch will have the City write the letter to ensure proper documentation of the transaction. He expects that it would entail 2-3 days work by Public Works. With that limited amount of time required, he estimates \$200-300 total may be

sufficient. K. Orecchio inquired if \$100 per tree were a more appropriate amount. I. Langewisch indicated that based on the Commissioner's discussion, he will use the amount as a negotiating issue.

F. ARBORETUM

- M. Ludwig will be meeting with Toni and Valerie of Rainbow Garden on Wednesday regarding tree on the green. This project has been on & off for some time.
- I. Langewisch noted that not much has been done regarding the Arboretum since the last meeting.
- K. Orecchio inquired as to when folks will be meeting regarding the "Greening" meeting. She also asked for details regarding the CT Tree Protective Associations Conference. M. Ludwig is coordinating information and meeting times.

G. OPEN GRANTS & GRANT APPLICATIONS

- M. Ludwig reported that the grant 08-09 USFS – Greening of the Post Road, Part III is approved. Part III addresses Orange to just beyond Locust.
 - Part I started at Ernst St and approached Ford St.
 - Part II was impacted by State not prepared for project, so Monroe Street was the primary focus with the planting of 19 trees.
 - This entire project is under the US Forestry Service who launched a project to give the DEP money for 10 cities to receive a share of \$25K. Milford was one of 5 final participants, providing \$5,000 towards the Greening of the Post Road.
- K. Orecchio reviewed the Post Road section to be planted next. She brought to the Commission's attention and for the record that the trees need to be moved back as far as possible, on average 10' to 12'. This is due to wires and the curve of the road and, ultimately, to maintain the required site line (10' back for a site line of 400' to middle at 40 mph). There are a total of 53 new trees to be planted. M. Ludwig confirmed that the grant was for about 50 trees so this is in line with requirements. There was discussion regarding locations for the plantings, previous discussions with businesses such as CVS, Saturn, the police station, Milford Hospital Medical Center and the Cinema. Some locations, such as by Saturn, include State property, so there is added bureaucracy for plantings, trimming, etc.

Commissioner Malaney arrived at 7:38 p.m.

- M. Ludwig will need to prepare and submit a final report regarding the grant. She requested updates so she can properly document what is planted, where, etc.
- Trees will be secured from the Nursery. I. Langewisch brought to the Commission's attention that, due to budget restrictions, the plantings needs to be done during the week to avoid overtime from Public Works. B. Mancini suggested that if Public Works can pre-dig the holes during the week, the Commissioners and volunteers could easily plant the trees during the weekend/off hours. I. Langewisch anticipated that there would be no problems with that.

- B. Mancini will schedule the plantings per the Commission's suggested plan. Proposed is
 - March – planting start
 - June – planting needs to be complete for Grant deadline
 - June 15 – final report due
- B. Mancini will send via email this and related planting schedules. This schedule will include the Greening of the Post Toad trees on Beard Gravel and Cement property.
- K. Orecchio noted that Mary will be rescheduling the meeting to finalize details of the grant plantings.

H. TREE INVENTORY / MANAGEMENT PLAN

- I. Langewisch noted that nothing new has been added to the inventory.
- He is requesting volunteers to write different sections of the Management Plan. Drafts are to be ready for review by the Commission by the April 2009 meeting. Section assignments are as follows:
 - Overall Objectives – M. Ludwig
 - Tree Inventory – M. Ludwig
 - Future Planting Plan – B. Mancini
 - Specifications for planting – J. Malaney
 - Suitable trees for street planting – J. Malaney
 - Street Tree Maintenance plan – I. Langewisch
 - Arboretum Maintenance Plan – I. Langewisch
 - Nursery Operation Plan – I. Langewisch
 - Citizen Pruners – K. Orecchio
- I. Langewisch thanked everyone in advance for their work on this. He indicated that there are some items that can be found online for reference. Especially in regards to tree selection options, reference was made to the CT Cities & Towns book by Glenn Dryer and Bob Ricard prepared by the CT Urban Forest Council (under grant).

I. STORM DAMAGE ASSESMENT

- I. Langewisch is still waiting to hear Homeland Security. Thus, we should anticipate this returning to the Commission.

J. TREE NURSERY

- I. Langewisch reported that nothing has been planted.
- He continues to try to connect with John Hangin.

K. STREET TREE REPLACEMENTS

- I. Langewisch reported that Street tree replacements were not done.
- 19 trees on Monroe had been planted by the Commission. A pear tree, among that group planted, was broken due to damage by City. The City has instituted a new policy to ensure this doesn't happen again.
- There was a tree run over on Robert Treat Parkway.
- Anderson Avenue had holes dug for trees, but the planting was not completed.

L. GREENING OF THE POST ROAD

- *Addressed above under Grants.*

M. EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

- I. Langewisch reminded the commission of the presentation on January 31, 2009 – “What’s Bugging Your Tree?” with a subtitle of, “Who’s coming to dinner” at the Milford Library at 10 a.m. B. Mancini has submitted notices to the papers. Milford Trees, Inc. will be assisting with refreshments.
- M. Ludwig will provide Commissioners with a copy of Jim Tinsley’s article “Greening on the Post Road” that appeared in Tuesday’s paper.

N. INTER-AGENCY REVIEW MATTERS

- I. Langewisch noted that the Volvo application had previously been reviewed and reported.
- B. Mancini suggested that new contacts be provided, including business cards, as S. Wing is no longer on the Commission, but is listed on most materials as the contact. The suggestion was made to not reference titles, so reprinting would not be necessary when title rotate, but members remain on the Commission.
- I. Langewisch brought to the Commission for review and comment an application for 598 West Avenue. This is for the erection of 1 billboard and the removal of 2 existing billboards by Barrett Outdoor Communications. B. Mancini noted that White Pines and Blueberry are to be planted to replace the minimal clearing to be done. No site visit required.
- I. Langewisch brought to the Commission for review and comment 314 Bridgeport Ave. This plan included several variations for an odd-shaped section on the side street. The Commission voiced no objections to the plans for this side/back section. Concern was voiced, however, in regards to the plan along Bridgeport Ave. K. Orecchio noted that, for the trees selected, there are too many for healthy growth. B. Mancini commented that the selection of all Sycamores, especially under power lines, was not an optimal choice. He also noted that several additional trees were located too close to the building. I. Langewisch observed that there needed to be a 10’ setback from the property line to the building. B. Mancini confirmed that there were no City trees at issue with the property as appears on the maps provided. J. Malaney noted that there were enough trees on the plans for the planned number of parking spaces. B. Mancini seconded that and returned to the concern that there was not enough space between the planned Sycamores; these trees should be planted 40’-60’ apart. The plans show them planted at 20’ intervals. B. Mancini will prepare the Commissions report on this application.

O. ADJOURNMENT

- B. Mancini moved to adjourn the meeting, J. Malaney seconded the motion, the committee voted and the motion was carried unanimously.

These minutes have been approved.

- The January 12, 2009 meeting of The Milford Tree Commission was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting of The Milford Tree Commission held January 12, 2009 are respectfully submitted,

By: _____

Lynne McNamee
Recording Secretary