

## **THE MILFORD TREE COMMISSION**

### ***Minutes of the January 12, 2015 Meeting***

#### **A. ROLL CALL**

Commission Members:

Bryan Mancini - Chairman  
Kate Orecchio - Vice Chairman  
Jim Malaney - Co -Vice Chairman  
David Skirkanich  
Melissa Smith  
Seny Ricardi

Recording Secretary:

Annie Mecca

Absent:

Melissa Smith

#### **B. CALL TO ORDER**

Bryan Mancini called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

#### **C. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

- Bryan Mancini made a motion to accept the minutes to the meeting on December 8, 2014. Kate Orecchio seconded the motion. The minutes from the December 8, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

#### **D. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

- Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman – Jim Malaney nominated Bryan Mancini for Chairman; Kate Orecchio seconded the motion. It was put to a vote and passed unanimously. Kate Orecchio made a motion to nominate Jim Malaney as co-Vice Chairman; Dave Skirkanich seconded the motion. It was put to a vote and was passed unanimously.
- Financial Report - As of the end of November, the Financial Report is as follows: \$300.00 for Secretarial Fees, \$900.00 for Trees and Shrubs, \$1 for Travel, \$5.00 for postage, \$5.00 for Duplication, \$5.00 for Office Supplies and \$5.00 for Printing and Binding.
- Members Update – Jim Malaney was re-appointed for 2 years, until 2017. Jennifer Ibarra was officially removed and replaced with Seny Ricardi as a regular member.
- Meeting Dates Set – January 12, 2015, February 9, 2015, March 9, 2015, April 13, 2015, May 11, 2015, June 8, 2015, July 13, 2015, August 10, 2015, September 14, 2015, October 13, 2015, November 9, 2015 and December 14, 2015.
- Budget Schedule – This meeting will be held February 12, 2015 at 6:30 pm, at the Board of Finance. The Milford Tree Commission is 5<sup>th</sup> on the Agenda.
- Outside Communication – Policies And Procedures – The following correspondence transpired after the December 8, meeting wherein the Milford

Tree Commission was asked to serve as an intermediary for the Tree Warden to hear an appeal from residents at 2 Little Pond Street.

- **From:** "Debra S. Kelly" <[DKelly@ci.milford.ct.us](mailto:DKelly@ci.milford.ct.us)>  
**Date:** December 9, 2014 at 3:32:01 PM EST  
**To:** Bryan Mancini <[artesianlandscape@yahoo.com](mailto:artesianlandscape@yahoo.com)>  
**Cc:** Toni Weeks <[ToniW@ci.milford.ct.us](mailto:ToniW@ci.milford.ct.us)>, Jonathan Berchem <[jblaw@ci.milford.ct.us](mailto:jblaw@ci.milford.ct.us)>  
**Subject: RE: Tree Commission Meeting**

Bryan,

It was not appropriate for Ms. Jermain to reach out to any Commission member regarding her appeal. From what I could tell, it seems that the Commission often recommends / approves honorary plantings, and that suggestion was certainly in line with the spirit of Ms. Jermain's presentation. Please keep us advised as to any other calls you / the commission may receive. I'd like to chalk this one up to the appellant's frustration and let it pass, but if need be we will reach out to Attorney Nicoll.

Debra

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From: Bryan Mancini [[artesianlandscape@yahoo.com](mailto:artesianlandscape@yahoo.com)]  
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2014 12:17 PM  
To: Debra S. Kelly  
Cc: Toni Weeks; Jonathan Berchem  
Subject: Re: Tree Commission Meeting

Debra, I just thought that it should be noted I received a call from Kate Orecchio this morning saying the woman from last night Mrs. Jermaine just called and harassed Kate about having the bushes removed. And that she had no right to say anything about her father's honor and whether he would want the bushes or not.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 8, 2014, at 1:59 PM, Debra S. Kelly  
<[DKelly@ci.milford.ct.us](mailto:DKelly@ci.milford.ct.us)<<mailto:DKelly@ci.milford.ct.us>>> wrote:

Bryan,

Attached please find a revised outline on how to conduct this evening's meeting. The Connecticut General Statutes and the Milford Code of Ordinances state that the appeal needs to be heard and decided by the Tree Warden. We are using the Tree Commission as a means to have this held in a public forum. As a Commission, you are being asked to weigh in on the Warden's decision and the resulting appeal. The ultimate decision however, will be made by the Tree Warden. Any aggrieved party may appeal the Warden's decision to the Superior Court.

Accordingly, I revised the two possible motions to reflect the Commission's recommendation to the Warden, rather than its final decision on the appeal itself.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I will see you tonight!

Debra

Debra S. Kelly

Assistant City Attorney

City of Milford

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203-783-3250

203-876-1358 (fax)

Commission members are not allowed nor will they be compelled to discuss any matters outside of any meeting.

#### **E. TREE WARDEN REPORT / STREET TREE MATTERS**

- 2 Little Pond Road –Catherine and Connie Jermain came to our meeting briefly to drop off a letter that was written on their behalf from Irwin Langewisch, retired Tree Warden, regarding their juniper hedges. However, the ruling by the Tree Warden on the removal of the above-referenced hedges stands, as they are still planted on City property.

#### **F. ARBORETUM**

- Memorial Plaques –Bryan Mancini is currently working on compiling the list for new memorial plaques to be ordered.
- Sign and Post Fixed – the Sign and Post located across from Lafayette has been cemented in place and is now repaired.

#### **G. OPEN GRANTS & GRANT APPLICATIONS**

- There are no open grants at this time.

#### **H. TREE NURSERY**

- Winter Work and Gate – This is the next project that will be completed in the near future.

#### **I. STREET TREE REPLACEMENTS/TREE REQUESTS**

- None at this time.

**J. EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES**

- None at this time.

**K. INTER-AGENCY REVIEW MATTERS**

- None at this time.

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

- David Skirkanich made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jim Malaney seconded the motion, the committee voted and the motion was carried unanimously.
- The January 12, 2015 meeting of The Milford Tree Commission was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting of The Milford Tree Commission held January 12, 2015 are respectfully submitted,

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Annie Mecca

Recording Secretary