

THE MILFORD TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of the April 13, 2009 Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

Commission Members Present:

Irwin Langewisch, Chairman
Kate Orecchio, Vice Chairman
George Noyes
James Malaney
Mary Ludwig

Alternates:

Bryan Mancini, Dave Skirkanich

Recording Secretary:

Annie Mecca

B. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Langewisch called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

C. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Mary Ludwig made a motion to accept the minutes to the meeting of March 9, 2009.

Bryan Mancini seconded the motion. The minutes from the March 9, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- Claire Rutledge from the CT Agricultural Experiment Station will receive a stipend of \$50.00 for her January 31, 2009 services.
- Jeannine Russo is doing a Tidbits of trivia for the Milford/Orange Bulletin (April 14, 2009 Edition): Largest Tree: Sycamore at the corner of Naugatuck and Plains Road – 130 ft. high, No guesses for the oldest tree, Most Common Tree in Milford is the Red Maple, the Rarest Specimen is a Bristlecone Pine by the Kissing Bridge, a Pine Oak planted from the CT Constitutional Convention at the Pilgrim Bridge and the White Oak planted by a descendent of Charter Oak are the two Historical Trees.
- Commission will submit a letter to the Mayor requesting that Bryan Mancini and George Noyes switch their commissions with the Tree Commission – that Bryan become a full member and that George become an Alternate, for the duration of their respective terms, due to the fact that Bryan has been doing so much for the Commission, that he deserves to be a full member. Mary made the motion, and Jim Malaney seconded the motion. This was unanimously passed.
- Irwin Langewisch indicated that a Root Injection was performed on the Elm Tree at the Chamber of Commerce.
- Irwin Langewisch also indicated that next month vertical mulching would take place.
- Allen's trees – Coral Bark Maples – found at Planter's Choice for the Mary Taylor Church and also a Cherokee Chief Dogwood, will be planted and billed to Allen's Trees.
- Senior Center – 5 trees still to come down. Irwin Langewisch met with Bruce – water damage to be repaired this summer. The Senior Center does not want big trees because they need enough air to circulate and dry the building. Suggested

are: 5 Viburnums in front, a couple of Quince, White Pines on the side of the driveway. Public Works will do this in the near future.

- Bryan Mancini dropped off a Ginkgo Tree for Tony and Val Urban – this is a memorial tree that will be planted possibly this week on the Green in front of Hurwitz.
- Arbor Day – Now 12 trees will go to Meadowside School – April 24, 2009 will be planting day. The Mayor will be there at 10am. – Bob Davis, the Principal at Meadowside will do the Press Release.
- Bryan recommended the Planning & Zoning Board approval of the regulation that provides the minimum tree caliper is 2.5 inches, and that the minimum for flowering trees is 2 inches. Bryan will email Jeanne Cervin of the P&Z Board. Bryan made a motion that this be carried out – Mary Ludwig seconded. Passed unanimously.
- Donations for English Elm – Press Release ran in the local papers – to date, no donation response.
- Steve Wing was given a gift certificate for \$100.00 to Yoshida Restaurant – any donations to offset would be greatly appreciated.
- Bryan Mancini took a drive to investigate dead trees on Shelland Drive and did not find any. Mary Ludwig will reinvestigate as there is a possibility that the street was mistaken for another.

E. TREE WARDEN REPORT

- Richard Tomasco, Tree Warden, was not present. There was no report.

F. ARBORETUM

- Bryan Mancini dropped off a Ginkgo Tree for Tony and Val Urban – this is a memorial tree to be planted on the Green in front of Hurwitz.

G. OPEN GRANTS & GRANT APPLICATIONS

- Glenn Dreyer Update: Commission will contact Kathy Murray for maps and Steve Wing for the tree tags.
- Phase 1 of the Greening of the Post Road – continuing – there is money.
- Steve's final drawing and list of trees – Kate Orecchio to inquire.
- We are in need of a Tulip Tree – Jim Malaney to check on this – 2.5" – 3.5" caliper for Green
- Greening of the Post Road Phase 3 – Kate Orecchio was able to get some phone numbers and will get everyone together this week. Irwin Langewisch to date has not received any signatures.

H. TREE INVENTORY / MANAGEMENT PLAN

- This discussion was tabled.

I. STORM DAMAGE ASSESMENT

- No report at this time. Discussion has been tabled.

J. TREE NURSERY

- Removed 12 trees and planted them at Anderson Avenue – in 2 ½ Hours – a record time!
- Fence Lines at Nursery – Jim Malaney has a product called Produce for the weeds.
- Saturday, April 18th at 9am is Work Party Day.
- Bryan Mancini dropped off a Ginkgo Tree for Tony and Val Urban – this is a memorial tree to be planted on the Green in front of Hurwitz.

K. STREET TREE REPLACEMENTS

- Nothing to Report.

L. GREENING OF THE POST ROAD

- Phase 1 of the Greening of the Post Road – continuing – there is money.
- Greening of the Post Road Phase 3 – Kate Orecchio was able to get some phone numbers and will get everyone together this week. Irwin Langewisch to date has not received any signatures.

M. EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

- Mary Ludwig indicated that the Display Boards came in.
- Fine Arts Festival – Milford – (Denise) we have a table for May 9-10, 2009
- Norwalk Tree Festival – May 16, 2009 – Mary Ludwig made the arrangements – 3 Display Boards – one for Nursery, one for our events, and one for the Arboretum.
- CT Tree Climbing Competition – Irwin Langewisch will be a Judge. This takes place April 25, 2009 at Beardsley from 7am – 4pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

N. INTER-AGENCY REVIEW MATTERS

- Reviewed Lowes Plaza –
- Bryan Mancini has written a letter that will be revised and recorded into the minutes below:

Mr. David Sulkis
City Planner
Planning & Zoning Office
70 West River St
Milford, CT 06460

Dear Mr. Sulkis,

Tree Commission members visited the new Hilton Hotel on Old Gate Lane on April 4, 2009 per your request. We found several problems with the plantings and the landscaping. We noted that nearly all of the trees surrounding the parking lot on the North and East sides of the building still had their wire baskets on. In addition most of the trees did not have their burlap wrapping on the root ball and trunk removed in accordance with proper planting techniques. This is an issue as the exposed burlap will tend to wick moisture away from the roots resulting in death of the tree. The burlap on the trunks can girdle the tree as well as allowing moisture to be trapped under it and result in death to the trees. The wire basket should be removed or the top half should be bent into the hole. The exposed wire poses a tripping risk. On the West side of the building, which faces Old Gate Lane the Linden trees planted there were substandard. They appear to be undersized and in poor condition. There is very little canopy to the trees and what is left of the canopy is in terrible shape. Also on this side of the building there are Red Maples planted directly under the power lines. These trees are already about the height of the lower lines. It would be prudent to move the trees at least ten feet into the property to keep them from growing directly under the overhead lines. On the North side of the building on either side of the main entrance there are clump birches that are planted too close to the building. Moving these trees closer to the sidewalk would benefit not only the trees, but the building from damage. Regarding the overall landscaping of the property we noted several problems. Nearly all the ground cover juniper planted is dying. Many shrubs were planted way to shallow and are drying out and dying as a result. Some of the Hollies planted along the North face of the building are dying and browning out from being too close to the building. On the South side the Arborvitae that is planted around the transformer is also dying. Overall there are plenty of shade trees for the number of parking spaces provided and the trees meet the regulations as to the size with the exception of the Lindens mentioned above.

Respectfully submitted by the following Tree Commission Members:

Bryan Mancini
Dave Skirkanich
George Noyes
Irwin Langewisch
Kate Orecchio

- Next Review is ADP on West Ave. in Milford – Bryan has been communicating with Mike Bertula the engineer for ADP regarding 18 White Pines that are reinforcing the buffer.
- 26 Higgins Drive –becoming a Doggie Day Care. We recommend they leave the trees along the back as well as the Pussy Willow bush. They can remove the wild roses, etc. In the front of the property they did not include the existing tree in the plans – a Green Ash, and we would also recommend adding an additional tree there.
- Valentines Diamond Center – they are adding parking – we request permission to plant 2 trees – species to be determined – with a letter to the property owner that in keeping with the Greening of the Post Road, we would respectfully request that they follow suit. Bryan Mancini will compose the recommendation letter.

O. ADJOURNMENT

- Bryan Mancini moved to adjourn the meeting, Mary seconded the motion, the committee voted and the motion was carried unanimously.
- The April 13, 2009 meeting of The Milford Tree Commission was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting of The Milford Tree Commission held April 13, 2009 are respectfully submitted,

By: _____
Annie Mecca
Recording Secretary