

THE MILFORD TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of the April 14, 2014 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:

David Skirkanich
Melissa Smith
Jim Malaney

B. CALL TO ORDER

Bryan Mancini called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

C. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- Seny Ricardi made a motion to accept the minutes to the meeting on March 10, 2014. Kate Orecchio seconded the motion. The minutes from the March 10, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- Financial Report - \$225 for Secretarial Fees, \$750.00 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.
- June Tree-Themed Show – Milford trees, Inc. is sponsoring a Tree Themed Show, June 25 – July 25 at the Milford Arts Building. The Tree Walk of Notable Trees takes place on June 14th.
- Review of P&Z Procedures and Zoning Regs. - Kate Orecchio and Bryan Mancini met with David Sulkis of Planning & Zoning and got an update on when an old property has to conform to new regulations. The property has to have a change of use, i.e., a diner to a bank. Physical changes of the use of the property or changes of a zone will compel new owner to comply with new regulations.
- Board of Alderman Budget Meeting – Bryan Mancini attended the Thursday, April 10th Board of Alderman Meeting to present the Tree Commission's case. The \$750.00 budgeted for trees can purchase 7 to 8 trees. The Milford Tree Comission planted well over 75 trees last year; only 5 trees were paid for with the budget money. The other trees were paid for with donations. Bryan asked that we have funding to replenish nursery stock.

E. TREE WARDEN REPORT / STREET TREE MATTERS

- Bryan Mancini met with the residents of Green Street with the Tree Warden regarding the postings of trees to come down. Bryan Mancini will be working with the residents and also through the Historic District Committee on a project to establish a Tree Conservation Committee. Paul May of 36 Green Street and other residents have slated two trees to be removed.
- UI Meeting – Seny Ricardi, Kate Orecchio and Bryan Mancini from the Milford Tree Commission attended this meeting on April 2nd at City Hall to hear UI's plan regarding their tree trimming proposal, which will be implemented in June. The "Utility Protection Zone" refers to a buffer zone that is 8 feet from the outermost electric conductor from ground to sky. Bryan asked these three questions: Who is going to be notified when a city tree on city property is going to be cut; the answer was the Tree Warden. The second question was: Can someone notify the Milford Tree Commission so they are aware of the trimming; answer was yes. The third question was: Since the evaluation would be case-by-case, the residents wanted trees replaced – and who can request for the City. UI said they would send maps. These maps can be found on the Tree Commission section of the City of Milford's website.
- Statutes for Tree Warden - Bryan Mancini also spoke with Kim Rose and James Marrone. State law does not require a tree warden to be an Arborist, nor do they have to have any formal education about trees. Bryan Mancini asked that the Statute be changed to have some form of formal education be required of a tree warden. Kim Rose is looking into it. The Milford Tree Commission is finally able to look at and make suggestions of the State Statutes.

F. ARBORETUM

- Trees Across from Milford Bank –the trees have been staked and the Call Before You Dig has been done. 6 Yoshino Cherry Trees will be planted on April 26th at 9:00 am.
- Memorial Tree – a Tupelo Tree will be planted for the Sicilian Family.
- Milford's Arbor Day is April 26th – there is a Proclamation from the Mayor.

G. OPEN GRANTS & GRANT APPLICATIONS

- There are no open grants at this time.

H. TREE NURSERY

- Last Saturday 7 volunteers were at the Nursery and put in 4x4x12 pressed treated wood posts for the Deer Fence. This fence will also have two gates that will be individually locked. Next is to purchase and install the fence.
- Public Works has also graciously donated a storage trailer to the Nursery – just needs new doors.

I. STREET TREE REPLACEMENTS

- Evergreen for Woodmont Park off Hawley Avenue – Bryan Mancini stated that an Evergreen tree needs to be bought for this property because the tree that was slated for this was planted at the new Sandy Hook Park.

J. EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

- None at this time.

K. INTER-AGENCY REVIEW MATTERS

- 667 Bridgeport Avenue (formerly Armellino's) – The recommendation is to replace the 4 trees that are missing from the Plot Plan, and in addition needs to add 16 shade trees. They can replant the pear trees. Bryan Mancini will be writing the recommendation letter.
- 230 Cherry Street (formerly Showcase Cinemas) – Overall, the plans have the right amount of trees, however, Bryan Mancini does not like some of the tree choices. The plan proposes Scholar Trees for shade which is not an appropriate choice. These trees should not be in a parking lot. Bryan Mancini will research Sephora Trees. 513 parking spaces require 103 trees. Bryan Mancini will be writing the recommendation letter.

L. ADJOURNMENT

- Kate Orecchio made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Seny Ricardi seconded the motion, the committee voted and the motion was carried unanimously.
- The April 14, 2014 meeting of The Milford Tree Commission was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting of The Milford Tree Commission held April 14, 2014 are respectfully submitted,

By: _____
Annie Mecca
Recording Secretary