

THE MILFORD TREE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 14, 2006

A. ROLL CALL

- Commission Members Present: Stephen Wing, Chairman
Kate Orecchio, Vice Chairman
Tammy Jorgensen, Member
Mary Ludwig, Member
John Westermann, Member
Theresa Nickols, Secretary
- Liaison to Planning and Zoning: Jeanne Cervin
- Member of the public: Bill Slattery

B. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Wing called the meeting to order at 7:11 P.M.

C. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 12, 2006 REGULAR MEETING

- The members filled in a blank with the last name of the City Planner: "Sulkis."
- J. Westermann moved to accept the minutes, Mary Ludwig seconded the motion, the committee voted and the motion was carried unanimously.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- Chairman Wing announced that the new fiscal year has begun and so far the Commission has spent \$105 in secretary fees.
- Chairman Wing noted that the Commission did not spend off of it's funds from the last fiscal year.

E. TREE WARDEN STATUS

- Chairman Wing reported that he spoke to John O'Connell, the Mayor's Assistant, the Mayor has been away on vacation for the past week.
- The Commission members discussed the process by which a new Tree Warden would be appointment, they discussed whether or not the Mayor can appoint someone to the Tree Warden position without the approval of the Board of Alderman.
- M. Ludwig reported that she spoke to Eleanor at the Mayor's office who stated that Rich Tomasko was supposed to be appointed as the new Tree Warden, but the letter wasn't finalized yet because the Mayor was on vacation and that the mayor can appoint without the approval of the Board of Alderman.

- M. Ludwig reported that three (3) trees have come down already and have not been cleaned up yet. The three (3) trees are located on (1) Buckingham Avenue, (2) Edgefield Avenue and (3) Rogers Avenue.
- A discussion of the status of city trees ensued, it was commented that there is a need for a Tree Warden to be appointed sooner rather than later.

F. REPORT ON TREE(S) AT 14 BAYVIEW DRIVE

- K. Orecchio reported that there was a complaint filed with the Milford Police regarding the alleged removal of a city tree on Bayview Drive by a Doctor Kopozy.
- K. Orecchio reported receipt of a letter from John Casey regarding his objection to abandonment of property.
- K. Orecchio also reported that Marilyn Lipton (the City Attorney) ruled that there was no deed to the City of Milford; only that it arises from the developer's map and that there is title to property on which the tree was located vested in the developer.
- A discussion ensued among the members regarding the police report, paper streets and the City Attorney's ruling.
- Chairman Wing proposed to prepare a position letter citing the issues of (1) the tree warden vacancy and (2) the tree removal at Bayview Drive.
- K. Orecchio planned to follow up with the police regarding the removal of tree(s) at Bayview Drive.

G. CONTINUATION OF TREE WARDEN STATUS

- Chairman Wing noted that he asked Chris Donnelly about the other Tree Warden's in the State of Connecticut.
- Chairman Wing further noted that Chris Donnelly suggested that Chairman Wing should speak to Greg Gorman, the Tree Warden for the Town of Glastonbury, who is also the President of the Tree Warden Association.
- Chairman Wing did speak to Greg Gorman and reported to the Commission that Mr. Gorman said the professional association offers a course for Tree Wardens.
- The members discussed the Tree Warden status in Milford.

H. TREE NURSERY

- M. Ludwig reported that she visited the Tree Nursery this past weekend.
- M. Ludwig noted that it was understood that dirt/compost was to be taken to Eisenhower but that no one showed up.
- A discussion ensued among the members of the Commission regarding the Tree Warden's responsibilities regarding the Tree Nursery.

I. Public Comments

- A member of the public, Bill Slattery, came to speak before the Commission.
- Mr. Slattery discussed with the Commission members the removal of three (3) trees at and around the home of Una Glennon and Shelia Kempf.
- The Commission informed Mr. Slattery that \$1000 went to Milford Trees Inc. and that the trees would be replaced with trees that are not nut-bearing trees.

- Mr. Slattery attended for the purpose of finding out whether the trees were slated to be replaced.
- Mr. Slattery stated that the street is overgrown in general and that only the Glennon's trees were taken care of.
- Mr. Slattery noted that the street is very narrow.
- M. Ludwig noted that part of the problem is the current lack of a Tree Warden.
- Chairman Wing reassured Mr. Slattery that it is the Commission's intent to replace the trees and that the Commission members will participate in that plan.
- Chairman Wing noted that the Commission has already filed a list of recommended trees.
- There was a discussion among the Commission members and Mr. Slattery regarding Milford Trees Inc. and its status as a non-profit (501c3) organization.
- Mr. Slattery thanked the Commission and exited the meeting.

J. MEMORIAL TREES

- M. Ludwig reported that dawn redwoods were planted on River Street, Jefferson Park and Higby Park.
- M. Ludwig suggested that from now on it should be made a point to buy small trees.
- M. Ludwig reported that a redbud was planted on The Milford Green across from the first redbud and that it is part of The Legacy Arboretum.
- M. Ludwig reported that a liberty elm was donated by Winthrop S. Smith, Sr.

K. Arboretum

- Chairman Wing noted that he sent around the work-up for the plan.
- Chairman Wing reported that Ed Vaughn was in town and made some corrections.
- Chairman Wing noted that the plan will be on the Park and Rec agenda for the September 6th meeting.
- The Commission members discussed how to present the plan to Park and Rec and concluded that M. Ludwig will discuss the grant and Chairman Wing will discuss the actions to be taken to implement the plan.
- Chairman Wing noted that Ed Vaughn's vision statement was done nicely.

L. TREE INVENTORY / MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Chairman Wing introduced the topic of trees on Huntington Street.
- M. Ludwig reported that Forestry, USDA and the DEP are trying to get Milford to join the municipality "cooperative" to plan storm management assessment.
- It was noted that without the Tree Warden it's been difficult to deal with.
- M. Ludwig reported that she spoke with the Mayor's Assistant, John O'Connell, about the possibility of a newer, faster computer.
- K. Orecchio asked if The Milford Tree Commission would pay for attendance at the Storm Damage Assessment Seminar/Conference.
- Chairman Wing noted that there is money available.
- Chairman Wing proposed that The Milford Tree Commission match 50% of personal contributions for attendance fees.

- J. Westermann moved for a resolution to have The Milford Tree Commission match 50% of personal contributions for attendance fees for K. Orecchio and M. Ludwig to attend the Storm Damage Assessment Seminar/Conference in Rhode Island on September 6, 2006. K. Orecchio seconded the motion, the committee voted and the motion was carried unanimously.

M. TREE NURSERY REPORT CONTINUED

- M. Ludwig reported that Bradford pears, a crabapple and ten (10) other trees (approximately thirty (30) in all) were transplanted to larger containers.
- A discussion ensued among the Commission members regarding different species of pear trees.

N. PARTY FOR IRWIN LANGEWISCH, FORMER TREE WARDEN

- M. Ludwig reported that she will be hosting a party for the outgoing Tree Warden, Irwin Langewisch, at her home from 4 to 7PM on August 27, 2006.

O. STREET TREE REPLACEMENT

- Chairman Wing asked the Commission if there are trees that need to be planted.
- M. Ludwig replied by stating that trees need to be planted at Live Oaks School, however, the weeds there are six (6) feet high.
- M. Ludwig proposed to get people from the Nursery and go over and offer their weeding services.
- Chairman Wing asked where M. Ludwig proposed to plant the trees.
- M. Ludwig responded by drawing a diagram as to where the trees will be planted.

P. GREENING ON THE POST ROAD

- K. Orecchio reported that we don't have the purchase order or approval yet.
- K. Orecchio reported that she spoke to David Sulkis who stated that we need the approval of the purchasing, legal and finance departments first.
- A discussion ensued among the Commission Members and it was suggested that Chairman Wing and members M. Ludwig and K. Orecchio would have a conference call with Dave Sulkis and Tom Ivers.
- It was noted that Irwin Langewisch was a key player in the advancement of the plan.

Q. TREE ORDINANCE AND EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

- Chairman Wing proposed to table these matters.
- M. Ludwig briefly noted that she spoke to Chris Donnelly regarding the educational initiatives.

R. TREES IN ACURA PARKING LOT

- J. Cervin suggested developing a tree fund that would require every applicant that was waived to put money in to a fund to buy more trees.

- It was noted that this idea would have to be passed through the legal department.
- A discussion ensued among the Commission members regarding what can and cannot be waived, it was concluded that K. Orecchio will look into the regulations.

S. INTERAGENCY REVIEW MATTERS

- Gulf Street: Conversion of single family dwelling to two (2) family dwelling; no public trees at risk.
- Conversion of basement to meeting place at Grace Baptist Church on Burnt Plains Road: Adding 61 parking spaces.
- M. Ludwig showed the Commission members pictures of Grace Baptist Church on Burnt Plains Road on her laptop.
- Chairman Wing noted that the plan was deficient and does not meet site plan requirements.
- Chairman wing proposed to draft a letter to explain how to meet requirements and regulations not what to plant.

T. NEW BUSINESS

- There was no new business.

U. OLD BUSINESS

- M. Ludwig and J. Westermann planned to take care of watering tank.

V. CONCLUSION OF MEETING

- All other matters were tabled.
- M. Ludwig moved to adjourn the meeting, K. Orecchio seconded the motion, the committee voted and the motion was carried unanimously.
- The August 14, 2006 Regular Meeting of The Milford Tree Commission was adjourned at 8:57 P.M.