

THE MILFORD TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of the November 10, 2008 Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

Commission Members Present: Irwin Langewisch, Chairman
Kate Orecchio, Vice Chairman
Stephen Wing
Alternates: Mary Ludwig
Bryan Mancini
Recording Secretary: Lynne McNamee

B. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Langewisch called the meeting to order at 7:16 P.M.

C. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

K. Orecchio made a motion to accept the minutes. S. Wing seconded the motion. The minutes from the October 14, 2008 meeting were approved without change.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- I. Langewisch confirmed receipt of the statement from the Finance committee.
- A replacement for Tammy Jorgensen is needed on the Commission. Bryan Mancini repeated his interest in the position. Mary Ludwig declined nomination as a full member, in preference to 'new blood.' M. Ludwig and K. Orecchio proposed moving forward with a request to Mayor Richetelli to appoint Bryan Mancini to the Milford Tree Commission. To replace B. Mancini as an alternate, Katherine Murray and Dave Skirkanich were both put forward as possibilities. M. Ludwig will contact Ms. Murray and I. Langewisch will contact Mr. Skirkanich for copies of their resumes to submit to the Mayor as candidates for Alternates to the Tree Commission. These submissions are to be provided to the Mayor by next week.

E. TREE WARDEN REPORT

- Not present.
- Langewisch related that the Warden will provide a list to him ahead of time of trees the Warden is 'posting.' The list will be distributed to the Commission. The providing of the list in advance is in compliance to the Ordinance which has the support of Public Works.

F. ARBORETUM

- I. Langewisch reported that Wed., November 5, 2008, a Sugar Maple and a Dogwood were planted in front of the Williams Agency.
- I. Langewisch reported that the Allen Brandts Dogwood was planted on the Green. M. Ludwig was concerned about its location and options, if needed.
- I. Langewisch reported that a Stewardia was planted Sat., November 8, 2008. (This falls under the 'Greening of the Post Road' item agenda, too.)

G. OPEN GRANTS & GRANT APPLICATIONS

- 05-06 CDBG can be taken off future agendas as project is complete.
- 04-05 CDBG – S. Wing will research and report how much is left towards future tags, brochures, etc. This report will also be provided to Tom, in follow-up to a discussion I. Langewisch had with him about 1 month ago.
- K. Orecchio presented a new grant application (CT DEP/CUSC) for additional Greening of the Post Road. There will be a meeting on Wed., November 12 at 2 p.m. at the Parsons Center in Conference Room ‘C.’ M. Ludwig will scan and email the application to the Commission for reference and review. Glenna Loges agreed to volunteer, as will Dana.
- M. Ludwig inquired of S. Wing how much remained for the project. S. Wing commented that the plans submitted indicated \$2,500. M. Ludwig noted that the totality of the project over multiple steps was to amount to \$18,000. The Grant said that trees would be provided from the nursery, not only from the grant. Thus, funds could be used to purchase trees or to extend the area that incorporates trees from the nursery supply. S. Wing advised the Commission to weigh the pros and cons of this approach.
- In regards to the selection of trees, S. Wing reminded the Commission of the wires in the target area, and so small stature trees are recommended.
- Discussion of possible future target areas was discussed, incorporating public information of project under development that could impact the logic of investments from the nursery at this time, such as State plans for redevelopment. Also, the longevity of each proposed species was considered.
- The primary target planting area is between Locust Street and Orange Avenue along the Post Road.
- A few businesses have expressed interest in receiving trees, including Curry, and a few might be approached.
- As always, consideration of utility cables will be a priority.
- The anticipated proposal is for 12-13 trees at about \$200 each to meet the \$2500 grant award. S. Wing will begin to formalize this proposal.
- Concern was expressed of over mulching at the Wal-Mart complex on the Post Road.
- Compliments were provided for the nice job done at Turnpike Square.
- S. Wing noted that at Milford Academy, there appears to have been a misidentification of a tree planted; that on of the October Glories that should have been planted may have been an Autumn Blaze (per Dirr), due to its leaves changing color three weeks prior to the others of that batch. I. Langewisch suggested come Spring, the Commission keep an eye to ensure the tree is healthy.
- S. Wing will provide M. Ludwig with copies of the plans, so she can provide them to Chris.
- S. Wing and I. Langewisch commented on the success of the Commission’s efforts over the years, with how nice the Post Road looks as you drive the length from Orange to Devon. M. Ludwig added that New Haven Avenue shares that benefit.

H. TREE INVENTORY / MANAGEMENT PLAN

- I. Langewisch is reviewing multiple guides and materials for the development of a management plan. Once this is done, close coordination with Planning and Zoning will be required to make necessary adjustments.
- I. Langewisch will try to meet with John Hangen this week regarding the Tree Inventory. I-Tree tools software is available. With the assistance of GPS and related tools, the Commission will begin plans to redo the inventory to ensure all trees are reflected in the actual location. Once this is complete (or as possible), Jean Lasczak can assist to potentially add a layer to the City GIS site to reflect the location of the trees. I. Langewisch will investigate options for summer help assistance with this project.

I. STORM DAMAGE ASSESMENT

- I. Langewisch will follow-up with Doug from Hartford. Greg may speak to Doug, to try to encourage help. Ideal would be for Doug and the Hartford group to do the assessment. At a minimum, local parties would need "EHap" training.

J. TREE NURSERY

- I. Langewisch reported that the Nursery is ready to have the fence added, the chips have been spread and the trees have been mulched for winter.
- B. Mancini noted that the Lindens need to be moved from the 1 gallon containers.
- I. Langewisch related that he thinned the weedy walnut trees.
- Discussion ensued regarding separating and replanting some of the sycamores, what negative impact that might have, and the pros and cons of doing so, and when in the year would minimize damage. For bare root trees, S. Wing advised Spring is preferred. B. Mancini questioned if there was any preparatory work that could be completed during the winter.
- B. Mancini purchased 5 special pens for tagging. Cost was \$3 each and should arrive by next week.

K. STREET TREE REPLACEMENTS

- Sat., Nov. 8, 2008, 2 trees were replaced on the Post Road with 2 very large Amelanchiers.

L. GREENING OF THE POST ROAD

Please see G. and K.

M. TREE ORDINANCE

- Langewisch reported that the Ordinance had passed. It has been eight years since the original ordinance that formed the Commission. This item will be removed from future agendas.
- M. Ludwig shared the article in the "CT Post" regarding the passage of the Ordinance.
- M. Ludwig congratulated B. Mancini on his performance at the Board of Alderman meeting, responding to questions from the Alderman.

N. EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

- January 31, 2009 – “Guess who’s coming to dinner” presentation at the Milford Library at 10 a.m. S. Wing is working with the graphic artist on the promotional materials. B. Mancini will have this artwork converted to vector files for expanded use of images. S. Wing coordinating with Claire, who is presenting, among others. Need to ensure appropriate parties present to assist with screen projector usage.

S. Wing left the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

O. INTER-AGENCY REVIEW MATTERS

- The Commission reviewed plans for 70 North Street/Cornerstone Christian Center. B. Mancini will complete the formal site review form, to ensure compliance with Planning & Zoning regulations. K. Orecchio will email the form and a copy of the transmittal form to B. Mancini. Comments were favorable as to hiding the property, maintaining a considerable amount of trees and bushes and the selection of new trees to plant. There is one tree (the “Tulip Tree”) along North Street that is damaged and will need to come down.
- For next meeting, discussion of Gustos project.

P. CONCLUSION OF MEETING

- B. Mancini moved to adjourn the meeting, I. Langewisch seconded the motion, the committee voted and the motion was carried unanimously.
- The November 10, 2008 meeting of The Milford Tree Commission was adjourned at 8:44 P.M.

The minutes of the meeting of The Milford Tree Commission held November 10, 2008 are respectfully submitted,

Lynne McNamee
Recording Secretary

By: _____