

## **THE MILFORD TREE COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the December 8, 2008 Meeting**

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

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

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

Chairman Langewisch called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.  
Alternate Mary Ludwig arrived 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 November 10, 2008 meeting were approved with changes provided by S. Wing.

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

- I. Langewisch distributed a letter addressed to the Mayor from the Conservation Committee recommending the sale of land from the Downs House property to Milford Hospital. The letter was read aloud by S. Wing, who recused himself from further discussion on the matter. I. Langewisch provided history and context to the proposed sale, including that the sale was consistent with the original intent of the loan from the City for the property's purchase. The City does not need nor do they have the funds to keep the property, and the need of the Hospital is real. He noted that the Barn on the property is beyond repair, and that is the back portion of the property that would be sold to the Hospital. M. Ludwig questioned who currently maintains and would continue to maintain the property and structures, if there were any deed restrictions and for clarification for how the Downs house property differs from the Cadley house. After discussion, I. Langewisch asked for support of a letter from the Tree Commission in support of the submitted letter and in support of selling the land, getting that property back on the tax rolls. K. Orecchio made a motion to support the letter. B. Mancini seconded the motion.
- S. Wing -wanted to ensure that the 2009 Calendar for the Trees Commission was discussed and submitted, as required. Copies of the proposed calendar were distributed and approved for submission to the Community Development department.

#### **E. TREE WARDEN REPORT**

- Not present.

#### **F. ARBORETUM**

- K. Orecchio -donated two trees, 1 large (scholar), 1 smaller (larch) with the help of Public Works. The larger tree is decorated. I. Langewisch suggested she be present when Public Works takes down the decorations.

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

- 04-05 CDBG – S. Wing spoke with Tom Ivers, reporting that this project is in process, and that the Tree Commission is working on a plaque and arboretum maps.
- B. Mancini noted that “Phase II” can be taken off future agendas.
- M. Ludwig asked about the Forestry meeting.
- K. Orecchio questioned when the Alderman were meeting to discuss the application and the distribution of the 50 trees to be planted under the grant, after the doubling by the DEP of the initial \$2,500 to the current \$5,000. K. Orecchio has spoken to John O’Connell for insight as to when the issue would be on the Alderman’s agenda. I. Langewisch likewise had contacted City Hall, but had not heard of a date. He will follow-up this week. M. Ludwig was concerned about the tight timing.
- M. Ludwig asked S. Wing if he had done [the updated Post Rd. planting plan](#). ~~any planting today~~. S. Wing responded in the affirmative, but that he didn’t send plans electronically, due to technical limitations/size of the plans. He will provide physical copies as needed. 10 copies were requested, with copies going to, among others, I. Langewisch, Public Works, [M. Ludwig \(Milford Trees, Inc.\)](#) and Jim [Barnes](#).
- B. Mancini noted that, as Tree Planting Coordinator, he will send emails to the Commission and necessary parties, with enough lead time (target date in March), to plant the full quantity of trees. ~~K. Orecchio~~ [M. Ludwig](#) reminded everyone that the deadline for the Grant completion is June 2009, so we should be ready to go in the first week of January.
- I. Langewisch asked if everyone had provided preliminary approval of current plan for plantings on the Post Road. K. Orecchio has permission forms that must be signed. M. Ludwig -noted that June 15, 2009 is when the project is due. Please take into account that this is when her written report is due, and she needs appropriate time to complete the report. I. Langewisch noted that as the ground is not yet frozen, there was still time to begin plantings. S. Wing will contact Steve ~~EKraft~~ [Mmiller](#) to identify site lines and distances.

#### **H. TREE INVENTORY / MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- I. Langewisch related that he is waiting on the request for volunteers to assist in the tree inventory and management plan development/updating until the new Commission members have been selected and appointed in January. On this note, S. Wing -is resigning after four terms. Gratitude and compliments were extended to S. Wing -by Commission members in appreciation of his work. S. Wing indicated that he will still be willing to help the Commission if needed. Similarly, M. Ludwig -indicated that she is willing to serve as a full member, if needed.
- K. Orecchio and I. Langewisch both reflected on the effectiveness of the Commission, and noted that the Commission’s work had clearly been noticed by the DEP.

## **I. STORM DAMAGE ASSESMENT**

- I. Langewisch continues to follow-up with Doug from Hartford several times a week, to no avail.
- S. Wing -complimented J. Keller for her consistent great work over the years.
- I. Langewisch reached out to his contacts to seek assistance from college students working with Homeland Security, but she has not heard back from them yet.

## **J. TREE NURSERY**

- I. Langewisch, with Tom Pollard, fenced in a large area. He met with B. Mancini- to discuss realigning trees. If it stays warm, perhaps they could begin next week to separate trees, etc. M. Ludwig -asked if this would include the Mariscopas Zelkovas, or would these be left as is. B. Mancini -indicated that those would be out by Spring. K. Orecchio -asked if there were any sycamores there. I. Langewisch indicated that they would get the Peaches and Pines out and separated, then review what has been purchased, and get those into the appropriate places. M. Ludwig asked about where in the process the trees would be labeled, to which I. Langewisch indicated that labeling would occur as trees were being moved. M. Ludwig offered to help in this process; I. Langewisch will contact her to do so. During this process, B. Mancini will arrange a drip system to address the trees in their new locations. He will also inventory the plants, noting when they are brought in, sent out, times, locations, etc. He requested that members of the Commission notify him when any new donations, purchases, etc. are made, so the inventory may remain accurate and current. I. Langewisch reiterated this request.
- I. Langewisch related that a new 14' wide gate has been installed.
- I. Langewisch noted that he needs more orange stakes to finish up for the season.

## **K. STREET TREE REPLACEMENTS**

- I. Langewisch reported that Al Berrian wants Coral Bark Maples to be planted in front of the church. The Commission suggested 2 of the Coral Bark Maples and 1 Paper Bark Maple as a preferred recommendation. There was a question as to if a State permit was needed, as well as if approval from the church's pastor was required. I. Langewisch noted that, per the DEP, on the Green, the Commission has permission to do as they Commission recommends. He will check, however, if there are different rules on South Broad sStreet.
- M. Ludwig -noted that, in the Spring, 7 trees are to be planted on the office Post Rd. across from side-by-the Beards' Concrete.

## **L. GREENING OF THE POST ROAD**

- S. Wing asked about the Post Road Project. M. Ludwig noted that there is to be a Pin Oak on 1 side, crab apple and (Cryptomeria ~~erurymalaneal~~ sp?)/smaller trees. M. Ludwig needs two copies of the hard copy maps from K. Orecchio-, including one for Chris Donnelly and one to submit with the final report.

## **M. TREE ORDINANCE**

- I. Langewisch is seeking a clean copy of the final ordinance from Max Case. I. Langewisch will provide copies to all members of the Commission.
- B. Mancini ~~is~~ already drafting suggested additions to present to the new Board of Aldermen, after November 2009's election. Such additions seek to clarify the question of what permissions are needed and from whom.
- K. Orecchio brought to the attention of the Commission the poor trimming job done by the railroad parking lot.
- J. Malaney mentioned the pruning by DEP by the 95 ramp heading south. I. Langewisch added the closures on 95 itself for addition trimming. B. Mancini ~~sure~~ ~~emised~~ that this was probably in relation to the Westport death from overhanging trees.
- I. Langewisch alerted the Commission that the CT Post Mall is seeking to clear trees along 95 for additional visibility. There is a question as to what approvals, if any, they require.
- I. Langewisch reported that bids were submitted for a project revived from last year. Present were the Mayor, Warren, Aspl~~and~~ h Tree Expert Co. and a tree company. Warren won the bid. He will ~~s~~ start after November, so the leaves are already off the trees. K. Orecchio ~~asked~~ after the status of the English Elm.
- I. Langewisch shared that Warren Jacques will be trimming the trees. Public ~~w~~ Works will do the pruning now, with the liquid roots soil injection in the Spring, unless it remains warm enough to do sooner.
- K. Orecchio ~~asked~~ about a plaque for the State Champion tree. M. Ludwig suggested the Chamber should pay for it. I. Langewisch suggested such a plaque should appear on a fence or building, rather than immediately next to the tree, for security sake.

## N. EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

- I. Langewisch reminded the commission of the presentation on January 31, 2009 – “What's Bugging Your Tree?” with a subtitle of ~~Gue~~, “Lookss who's coming to dinner” at the Milford Library at 10 a.m. M. Ludwig complimented Allan Brandt's ~~the~~ artwork promoting the event. S. Wing will follow-up with Claire Rutledge to confirm what media she is using/needs, as well as with Dawn's son, ~~Michael~~, for the technical expertise to set up and monitor the needed equipment. Milford Trees will provide the refreshments, but as it is a joint event, M. Ludwig suggested that the Trees Commission split the cost. S. Wing thought the “travel and education” budget line would apply.
- I. Langewisch reported that he received 2 copies of the Tree Commission's budget.
- I. Langewisch relayed that Meadowside School has requested for Arbor Day 2009 to plant 6 trees, which would come out of the nursery. The proposed locations for these plantings, at the recommendation of the Commission, are by the playground and the ball field (please see circles on the project map), as the trees would provide needed shade. K. Orecchio noted that there are no trees in the school parking lot. B. Mancini commented that, as a City project, they are exempt from the ordinance. M. Ludwig remarked that that does not set a very good example,

but that this exemption for the City was addressed and removed with the new Tree Ordinance.

#### **O. INTER-AGENCY REVIEW MATTERS**

- J. Malaney asked for clarification about what structures and trees were coming down with the Gusto's project. B. Mancini responded that 1 building remains, while 1 comes down.

#### **S. Wing left the meeting at 8:25 p.m.**

- The plans for the Volvo property at 905 Post Road were reviewed. 6 Honey Locust trees (3" caliber) are to be planted along the Post Road. Also noted were 3 Austrian Pines to go by the new (proposed) showroom.
- K. Orecchio wanted to confirm that the trees on the Post Road would not be impacted by the wires. She also questioned the selection of Honey Locusts, but admitted that they are popular, as their leaves are small and frequently don't become the responsibility of the property owner to rake. There was no separate page with a landscaping plan. I. Langewisch noted that the property will be losing 8 parking spots as well as 3 additional spots, to make way for a new carwash. Two questions dominated the discussion:
  - As spots are being removed, do the owners need to comply with current regulations (traditionally to add treess when spots added); that is, how do the regulations read – that a change mandates such compliance, or only the addition of parking spots?
  - Is there space to add trees, or is that space actually required for delivery trucks to navigate the property in and out.
- A site visit is planned for Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. for those who can attend. K. Orecchio -will read the regulations more closely before commenting. J. Malaney noted that while 2 parcels appear on the submitted maps, changes are applying to only 1 parcel, so that should be taken into consideration when reviewing the regulations. M. Ludwig is concerned about the lack of diversity of treess along the Post Road.
- The second project reviewed is for a Holiday Inn and Conference Center off Plains Road. M. Ludwig -alone had not previously reviewed. B. Mancini has already transmitted his report relating approval of the project. The project came before the Commission because some special exemptions were required, including the presence of some "green" roofs. J. Malaney inquired what the exemptions and concerns involved that the project came before the Commission. B. Mancini clarified that, esp. as trees are not being planted along 95, confirmation was sought that there were enough trees and that were appropriate selections (which they were). I. Langewisch added that the proposal exceeded the requirements in the regulations.

#### **P. CONCLUSION OF MEETING**

- J. Malaney moved to adjourn the meeting, K. Orecchio seconded the motion, the committee voted and the motion was carried unanimously.
- The December 8, 2008 meeting of The Milford Tree Commission was adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

The minutes of the meeting of The Milford Tree Commission held December 8, 2008 are respectfully submitted,

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

Lynne McNamee  
Recording Secretary