

THE MILFORD TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of the December 8, 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:

Jim Malaney
Melissa Smith

B. CALL TO ORDER

Bryan Mancini called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

C. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- David Skirkanich made a motion to accept the minutes to the meeting on November 10, 2014. Seny Ricardi seconded the motion. The minutes from the November 10, 2014 meetings were unanimously approved.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- Financial Report - As of the end of November, the Financial Report is as follows: \$375.00 for Secretarial Fees, \$900.00 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.
- Members Update – Bryan Mancini sent the letter to Mayor Blake to remove Jennifer Ibarra and replace her with Seny Ricardi as a regular member. Mayor Blake will make a recommendation for an additional member after January 1, 2015.

E. TREE WARDEN REPORT / STREET TREE MATTERS

- 2 Little Pond Road – This was a hearing facilitated by the Milford Tree Commission of the Appeal of Kenneth M. Nicoll, attorney for Catherine and Connie Jermain, owner and resident, respectively, of 2 Little Pond Road, appealing decision by Milford Tree Warden to cut down shrubs located at, near and on 2 Little Pond Road. Debra Kelly was also present at these proceedings; she is the Assistant City Attorney. The Appellant Connie Jermain did most of the talking with Attorney Nicoll. Ms. Jermain stated that the Juniper shrubs were planted by her father back in 1964. They have since grown over 6 feet in height

- and are also not well shaped. Ms. Jermain says the shrubs are sentimental and they are taking care of them, trimming, etc. but she indicates that the city needs to put up another stop sign and not to have her junipers cut down. We were shown pictures from a neighbor, Diane Dumais of 21 Hilldale Court, which depicted a clear view of the stop sign and the overgrown juniper shrubs that were clearly obstructing the view of the road and forces a driver to inch out into the road to see around the corner. Ms. Jermain indicated that the neighbors were uprising against her and wanted her shrubs cut down. We also heard from the Tree Warden, Richard Tomasco, Christopher Saley, Public Works Director and Gary Wassmer, City Engineer. Mr. Wassmer showed us a survey plan of the property that indicated the placement of the shrubs, which were clearly planted on City property. Mr. Saley indicated that from a safety standpoint those shrubs need to come down and is all in favor of having them replaced with another kind of privacy shrub on the homeowner's property. They are opposing the Jermain's appeal from mainly a safety viewpoint and visibility issue and agree the shrubs need to come down. The Tree Commission heard both sides of the argument and came up with a recommendation to propose a compromise: The shrubs on the Little Pond Road side could stay, given that they are properly pruned and trimmed and the shrubs along Morningside Drive but cut down and replaced with other shrubs that would be planted on the homeowner's property itself. Kate Orecchio made a motion to accept the recommendation, David Skirkanich seconded the motion, the committee voted and the motion was carried unanimously. Bryan Mancini will write up the recommendation and send it to the Tree Warden for his final decision in the matter.
- 17, 21, 25, 31 Meadowside Road – Appeal of Beth Ann Royer appealing decision by Milford Tree Warden to cut down trees located at 17, 21, 25 and 31 Meadowside Road and appeal of Mary Dwyer appealing the decision of the Milford Tree Warden to cut down trees located 54-56 Meadowside Road after January 1, 2015. The Appellants were a no show. In this case, the Appellants defaulted and the motion stands. Bryan Mancini and the Tree Commission discussed with Richard Tomasco, the Tree Warden, what UI had recommended regarding those 22 White Pine trees. UI and Mr. Tomasco agreed the trees should come down, and replaced with something else. Christopher Saley, Public Works Director, asked for the Tree Commission's recommendation as to the size of the replacement trees, type of tree to plant and then Public Works will get the Homeowner's permission. Bryan will write up the recommendation and submit it to the Tree Warden for final approval.
 - Open Space Update – Bryan Mancini forwarded Seny Ricardi's email information to Steve Johnson, Open Space Agent regarding the property across from Steven Osnos of 55 Ingersol Road's property being used as a dumping site. We will wait for a response from Mr. Johnson.

F. ARBORETUM

- Memorial Plaques –Three of the Memorial Plaques are in and have been placed accordingly for a memorial Tulip Tree, Elm, and Maple. Bryan Mancini is now in the process of filling out the paperwork with what wording will be used for the plaques. Bryan Mancini asked Maria Macri for the wording she used for her mother's plaque. The plaques are being done for us by Milford Monument.

G. OPEN GRANTS & GRANT APPLICATIONS

- There are no open grants at this time.

H. TREE NURSERY

- Overview of Work Activities – Omar and Bryan Mancini doubled-rolled the fabric and finished part of the fence.
- Winter Work and Gate – re-doing tree lines and gate will be completed after Christmas.

I. STREET TREE REPLACEMENTS

- None at this time.

J. EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

- None at this time.

K. INTER-AGENCY REVIEW MATTERS

- None at this time.

L. ADJOURNMENT

- David Skirkanich made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Kate Orecchio seconded the motion, the committee voted and the motion was carried unanimously.
- The December 8, 2014 meeting of The Milford Tree Commission was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting of The Milford Tree Commission held December 8, 2014 are respectfully submitted,

By: _____
Annie Mecca
Recording Secretary