

Tree Board Meeting Minutes  
Town of Hartford Town Hall  
July 16, 2019  
Room 312, 6:00 p.m.

Mission: The Tree Board's mission is to plant and maintain public trees and advocate community tree stewardship.

Board Members Present: Tim Covell, Jeff Arnold, Kathy Lamb, Clare Forseth, Deborah Milne  
Others: Kevin Stuart, Liaison from Parks and Recreation

Meeting Called to Order 6:03

The Board welcomed member Kathy Lamb to the Tree Board.

Education: Current Trends & Practices: Karen shared an article about planting a trillion trees to save the planet from global warming. Clare shared online articles on the use of Biochar added to the soil to help curb the pollution run-off to lakes and streams and a warning of planting imported Callery pear trees that threatens to crowd out native trees in some Eastern forests.

Approval of June 18, 2019 Minutes: Amended minutes passed unanimously with citing that Update Tree Signage referred to Kilowatt Park.

#### Old Business

- Tree Warden's Report: Brad emailed a report indicating that he is still working with LaMontagne Tree Service to have the 3 trees planted on Town Hall property. Karen will follow up with Brad to see if he needs help. Jeff reported on symposium by Kat Buxton who makes great composted soil. She makes a nest of hay and then puts 3 part dry and 1 part green. Circulation of air is the key.
- Report from Liaison (Clare) with Planning Board: There was no meeting at planning office this month
- Tree ID Walks: Feedback on June walk at Dothan Brook School: Great participation. The board liked each member taking a tree to present although it could have been planned better. Participants liked Jeff grabbing leaves to compare and contrast features.  
Planning for October 12, 2019 Tree ID Walk: Jeff and Clare will lead the walk at Stonecrest Farm (Jeff's home). An interesting historical slant will be incorporated into the walk.  
Tabled for later discussion: March (2020) and June 2020 walks. Any additions to the hand-out of tree offerings at different walk sites?

• Town Hall Tree Plantings: The trees will be planted when LaMontagne can get time. Karen will check with Northern Nursery as to the availability of the trees.

• Watson Park: Distressed trees and knotweed problem: The knotweed that was cut down has stayed low. Clare will talk to Scott about cutting more knotweed around the horsechestnut. The catalpa tree is getting leaves but still looks pretty stressed. The board will continue to monitor the trees.

#### New Business

• Lori Hirschfield's update to Selectboard on the Hazard Mitigation Plan – does Tree Board have any input for this plan with respect to landscaping or Invasives? The Board would like to see the following included / addressed in her report:

- the importance of tree diversity
- the importance of swales particularly in parking lots and along roads to capture or slow down runoff; and it is preferable to have fewer curbs to promote runoff
- expansion of riparian buffers

• Selectboard asked if Tree Board has a position about planting fruit trees on public lands: The Board supports planting fruit trees on public lands, but recognizes the need to keep them away from walkways to prevent slipping on dropped fruits. Given the concerns some of the Selectboard members expressed about the dramatic deterioration of our climate in coming years, perhaps we should add the importance of having fruit trees and other edibles on town properties for food availability. The fruit trees and blueberries at Town Hall are a good example.

Suggestions for next meeting's agenda: none presented at this time.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:20

Respectively submitted,  
Clare Forseth

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

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