HARTFORD TREE BOARD MINUTES

Date: 7-18-23 Time: 5 pm | Meeting called to order by Jeff Arnold

Commission Members In Attendance

- Jeff Arnold, David Barrell, Leif Smedman, Alan Haehnel, Gaal Crowl Shepherd

Commission Members Absent

Clare Forseth,

Others in Attendance

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Alan Haehnel. Seconded by Gaal Crowl Shepherd.
In Favor: All Opposed: None
The motion was Approved or Disapproved? Approved

 Citizen Comments

None

Commission Member Comments

None

Directors Report

None

Old Business

1) Tree Warden Report: Jim absent.

2) Nursery Status Report: Japanese Beetles are eating the leaves. Gaal will use Bioneem to treat the beetles. This treatment is all organic. Permethrin, one of the active ingredients, is simply chrysanthemum. Gaal is planning to weed and spray for the Japanese beetles. After discussion, Jeff will weed tomorrow and Gaal will spray Thursday. Gaal has an artist friend who is bequeathing carpet to us.
3) Riparian Grant Project Report: Discussion of the black plastic issue—very expensive to ship (more than the cost of the plastic). We need at least 8 ml. When Scott comes back from vacation, we will ask him whether he is going to order the plastic at the high cost of shipping or we can order 6 ml plastic from a local establishment and double it up. We can secure it with landscape staples or stakes.

Poison Ivy removal—Jeff is going to try to get some community volunteers on July 29th, approximately 10:00-12:00. This would be about 70 yards of the riparian buffer. On August 5th, Jeff will put out a call to remove the invasives (honeysuckle, barberry, etc.). We will also raise the tree canopy on that date. Jeff will look into borrowing a couple invasive shrub removal devices from the Norwich Trails Committee.

4) Discussion of work load of the tree board—should we, the tree board members, be taking on such physical work as part of our involvement? Dave expresses that this work is a lot, particularly with the work required on our own properties. Dave suggests that we need to have a session where we can more fully delineate our mission and responsibilities as a board. Dave, as treasurer, expresses that he would like clarification on his role.

Dave makes a motion that Jeff will contact Jim Henderson about whether he wants to continue as the Tree Warden. Gaal seconds the motion.

Gaal expresses concern that dying, contagious plants and trees are not being removed, and she would like clarification concerning who to talk to about this issue.

The cost of the plastic will come from the tree warden budget.

Proposal from Gaal to plant willows where we are removing the knotweed (the cottonwood area). Discussion of some of the other riparian shrubs that could be planted there.

Gaal would be willing to plant a bank of willows as an experiment

Thanks to Alan Haehnel for taking the minutes in Clare’s absence.

New Business

Agenda Items for Next Commission Meeting

Review of activities poison ivy removal, plastic application and community invasive removal day

Next Meeting

August 15, 2023

Adjourn
Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by: Leif Smedmen No Quorum ____________________
Seconded by: ______ David Barrell ______

All in Favor: ______ All ______________ Opposed: ______ None ______

Respectfully submitted by: ______ Jeff Arnold ___________ Signature: ________________________

Date: ____________ 7-18-23

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**Hartford Tree Board Commission Members**

- Jeff Arnold, Chair (03/07/2025)
- Clare Forseth, Secretary (11/15/2024)
- David Barrell, Treasurer (06/27/2026)
- Leif Smedman, Member (06/27/2026)
- Gaal Shepherd Crowl (10/01/25)
- Alan Haehnel Member (6/27/2026)
- Jim Henderson, Tree Warden
- Vacant (1 position)