

[NOTE: These minutes are made available to the public prior to Shade Tree Commission acceptance.]

MINUTES OF SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2007

Special meeting of Shade Tree Commission was convened at 7:10 p.m. by Chairman Bruce Graver for purpose of hearing objections to an order by Town Tree Warden to remove a 58" Silver Maple in front of 98 Hartford Avenue.

Alison Tajarian, 99 Hartford Avenue objected to removal. She stated that the tree was pruned as recently as this summer and that it withstood summer wind storms without loss of any branches; therefore, did not see need to remove tree. She further stated we are losing too many old trees in Wethersfield.

Mark Buskey, 88 Hartford Avenue said it was ridiculous to cut down historic and beautiful trees. No dead branches have fallen from the tree.

James Bankowski, 94 Hartford Avenue objected to removal as it did not interfere with power lines. He asked if the Arborist found any significant decay and were there any significant reasons for removing?

A letter from Mr. and Mrs. Donald McKelvie, 98 Hartford Avenue was read into the record (copy attached). Basically the letter stated a desire to have the tree remain as an asset of the Town. However, if professionals are convinced the tree creates an unsafe situation, this fact would override their objections.

The Tree Warden stated that the condition of the tree was brought to his attention by the Town Arborist. Upon his own investigation the Warden found the tree's crown to be in deteriorating condition. There are several large cavities, hollow limbs, a missing leader, and a fungus growth (Conk) on large limb over the road. The Conk is feeding on the wood tissue further weakening the limbs structure. Any of these limbs could fail and drop at anytime.

If the tree fails, it has a target. Over 5,958 vehicles pass the site daily (official traffic count taken March 6, 2000 at Hartford Avenue and Francis Street). Hartford Avenue is a main route for emergency vehicles. There is also a sidewalk servicing a school, park and a church.

The Tree Warden stated he took no pleasure in condemning trees particularly old trees; however, part of his job is risk assessment and management. With that in mind he can not subject the Town to the liability this tree presents.

Chairman Graver elaborated further on the condition of the tree and in particularly the faults of Silver Maples.

After the discussion there seemed to be an understanding by those in attendance that this tree has outlived its useful life and now presents a risk to public health, safety and welfare.

The Tree Warden stated he will move forward to have the tree removed as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Lepper, CTW
Tree Warden/ Secretary Pro-Tem