

MINUTES OF SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Bruce Graver.

Present were: Phil Cashman, John Winiarski, Bruce Graver, Mark Alpert and Tree Warden, John Lepper. One Commission position remains vacant.

John Winiarski moved and Mark Alpert seconded to change order of meeting to allow public hearing to be moved to first order of business. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Graver then opened meeting to public hearing on removing a tree at 681 Folly Brook Blvd.

Mr. and Mrs. Julio Cardoso, 681 Folly Brook Blvd, appeared before the Commission to request removal of a White Pine Tree in Town Right Away that is dripping sap on their vehicles and driveway. They also sited pine cones and needles as a problem. During testimony they stated purchasing their home 30 years ago and that the trees were there at that time. Chairman Graver stated that if the Town were to remove the tree, Cardoso would need to contribute \$300.00 to the Wethersfield Tree Fund since the request for removal is a private accommodation, and not done in the interest of public health, safety, or welfare. Mr. Cardoso countered with an offer of \$150.00. The Tree Warden explained the Commission was not in a position to wheel and deal and had to stay with established practice. He further explained that at \$300.00 the Town is still losing money on the removal since it is not in the public interest. Chairman Graver asked if pruning the tree so as to remove all branches over the driveway would be acceptable solution to consider. Mr. Cardoso then responded that he would pay the \$300.00 to have the tree removed, but he was not happy to do it. The Tree Warden advised the Commission and Mr. and Mrs. Cardoso that the tree will have to be posted for 10 days. If there is no objection filed to removal, then upon receipt of \$300.00 he will make out a work order for removal. The Commission then resumed regular order of business.

ITEM 1 - Public Comments - None

ITEM 2 - Removals

From July 1, 2006 to February 28, 2007, 57 trees have been removed. So far our "Storm Proofing" major arteries program is working as there have been no road closures or power outages this winter due to broken limbs or falling trees

ITEM 3 - Minutes of [September 6, 2006](#) and [December 6, 2006](#) meetings were approved.

ITEM 4 - Communication

- A. Letter from Julio Cardoso, 681 Folly Brook Blvd requesting a hearing.
- B. James Sheehy called to report tree down in Griswold Pond.
- C. Debra Cohen, Wethersfield Volunteer Ambulance Association call requesting a memorial tree at Mickey's Place.
- D. Lillian Doersohler, Reed Drive contacted Tree Warden concerning a tree on Saxon Road.
- E. Zulmira Barres, Shelbourne Road called concerning a neighbor's tree overhanging her property.
- F. Carol Ambrose, Justin Lane called to report newly planted evergreen trees at Webb School were dying.
- G. Principal, Emerson Williams School called concerned about crapapple in front of school.
- H. Bill Smyers, Ox Yoke Drive called for determination of ownership of a tree.
- I. Allison Kavanaugh, Ridge Road called concerning a problem with her tree.
- J. Jim Mayo, 240 Main Street called concerning tree removals.
- K. Margaret Longly, Nott Street called looking for an arborist.
- L. Francis Waclowski, 466 Maple Street for ownership determination on a tree.
- M. Resident 472 Maple Street called for ownership determination on a tree.

- N. Mrs. DeMauro, 330 Ridge Road called concerning tree vs. sidewalk issue.
- O. Letter from Town Manager concerning trees at 106 Broad Street.
- P. Tree Warden responded to Manager's letter.
- Q. Gail Fabian, Hartford Ave. forwarded copy of Hartford Courant editorial "Greener, Cooler Cities."
- R. Letter from Neil Boles, 31 High Street, East Hartford concerning tree to be removed at 460 Main Street.
- S. Memo from Mike Turner concerning tree vs. hydrant at 155 Beverly Road.
- T. Nancy Cavallaro sent letter holding Town responsible for neighbor not cutting their trees.
- U. William Kazanji, 89 Prospect Street called concerned about tree in front of house.
- V. Letter from Steven Barone, 18 Bunce Road requesting reimbursement for sewer work.
- W. Homeowner, Tee Lane, called to complain about condition of trees at Highcrest School.
- X. Dan McQuade, Davey Tree called for permission to do line clearing for CL&P.
- Y. Letter of notification from CNG for service installation on Brookside Circle.
- Z. Sent statement to Carl Nyari for cutting and removal of Town trees.
- AA. Letters from Alison Tajarian, 99 Hartford Avenue; Mark Buskey, 88 Hartford Avenue; Mr. and Mrs. Donald McKelvie 98 Hartford Avenue requesting hearing on Tree Warden's decision to remove a tree on Hartford Avenue.
- AB. Letter to above appellants setting hearing.
- AC. Thank you letter to Wethersfield Garden Club for contribution to tree fund.
- AD. Memo to Mike Turner with damage assessment to Town Hall trees by contractor.
- AE. Letter to Principal at Highcrest School relative to condition of trees.
- AF. Letter to Julio Cardoso confirming appointment for hearing.
- AG. Letter from Tree City U.S.A. recertifying Town as Tree City U.S.A.

ITEM 5 - Tree Warden's Report

- A. Inspected tree at 681 Folly Brook Blvd.
- B. Investigated downed tree in Griswold Pond.
- C. Investigated tree complaint on Saxon Road.
- D. Confirmed that newly planted trees at Webb School were dying and reported to Building Committee Chair.
- E. Examined tree at Emerson Williams School.
- F. Made ownership determination on Ox Yoke Drive.
- G. Examined tree at 66 Maple Street and referred to Engineering for ownership determination.
- H. Made ownership determination of tree at 330 Ridge Road.
- I. Inspected trees at 106 Broad Street.
- J. Investigated tree hydrant conflict on Beverly Road.
- K. Investigated allegation by Nancy Cavallaro that Town was responsible for neighbor's trees.
- L. Investigated tree complaint on Prospect Street and advised contacting Conn. DOT.
- M. Denied Steven Barone's request for sewer work reimbursement. Case went to CIRMA.
- N. In response to homeowner on Tee Lane and Principal of Highcrest School, retaped area of fallen trees with "caution tape."
- O. Granted permission to Davey Tree to do line clearing for CL&P.
- P. Inspected Brookside Circle site for CNG work and found no conflicts with trees.
- Q. Investigated complaint of tree clearing by Carl Nyari in Dennison Ridge open space.
- R. Prepared defense for hearing on Hartford Avenue tree removal.
- S. Investigated for Town Engineer damage by contractor to Town Hall trees.
- T. Prepared budget request.
- U. Completed several surveys requested by U.S. Forest Service and DEP Division of Forestry.
- V. Met with Margarite Alpert at Charles Wright School to develop planting plan.
- W. Attended Connecticut Tree Protective Association Annual Meeting & Conference.
- X. Met with Principal of Emerson Williams School to review planting plan.
- Y. Discussed Arbor day plans with Lisa Leonard.
- Z. Attended Tree Storm Damage Assessment Workshop.
- AA. Studied "i-Tree Computer Program Manual." Worked with GIS Manager to develop a storm damage assessment

instrument for Town.

AB. Made inspection of at risk trees with Town Arborist.

AC. Prepared report on affects of road deicing materials on trees for Town Manager.

AD. Invited to participate in U.S. Forest Service review of Connecticut's tree programs.

AE. Inspected trees in areas where sidewalk work was taking place.

ITEM 6 - Old Business.

- A. Spring planting plans include: (4) Pears on Church Street and Westway to replace ones that failed: (1) Homestead Elm on Church Street to replace tree destroyed by motor vehicle; Charles Wright School (3) Forest Pansy Redbuds, (3) Greenspire Lindens; Emerson Williams School (1) Weeping Cherry, (10) Red Maples. Approximate cost \$3,570.00. Memorial Tree plants requested at Standish Park, Solomon Wells House and Main Street (near Hartford Ave.) The Commission approved unanimously taking \$3,750.00 from Tree Fund to cover tree purchases.

ITEM 7 - New Business - None

Having no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

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