

West Haven Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

26 April 2016

DRAFT

Present : John Haas, Chair
Michelle Matteo
Georgianna Jette
Eric Herrington, Tree Warden

Others Present: Bob Herrington, City of West Haven's contracted Tree Company

Agenda: Attached

Attachments: None

The meeting of the West Haven Tree Commission (WHTC / TC) was held on Tuesday, 26 April 2016, at West Haven City Hall, pursuant to notice given by Chair John Haas.

Mr. Haas called the meeting to order at 7:22 pm, noting that the persons listed above were present at the meeting. In the absence of our previous Secretary, Ms. Matteo served as note taker.

Public Session:

No members of public present.

Agenda:

Motion was made and seconded to amend the draft agenda to include **Action Items**. The amended draft agenda was approved by all members present, and entered in the record (attached).

Secretary's Report:

No Secretary's report as the previous Secretary was dismissed from the Commission by the Mayor's office. In the Secretary's absence, Ms. Matteo served as the temporary Secretary.

Minutes from the 29 March 2016 meeting were not available for review, Ms. Matteo will send them to the Commissioners via email.

Old Business:

Strapping removal from Campbell Ave trees

- Most of the trees seem to still have strapping on them. The Tree Warden said that he removed some strapping (generally from Brown to Elm) and confirmed that the trees show a negative impact from the too-tight strapping and are displaying a bulge on both sides of the strapping where trunk growth has been restricted. He also noted that legally, he was told to stop the strapping removal, as the trees are not legally owned by the City yet, as part of the contract for the Streetscape project.
- There is to be a scheduled tree inspection of the trees in the next month and the Tree Warden will attend. It is unknown who the inspector is and the date of when the inspection will occur, other than in the next month.
- The Tree Warden will notify the TC of the name of the inspector and when it will occur.
- Discussion ensued about the detriment of the too tight strapping and that these trees are now having limited growth due to the planting contractor not following the planting specifications noted in the City contract for the Campbell Ave Streetscape.

Arbor Day Planting (Location decision/Approval?)

- Location determined to be at Sandy Point parking lot, on the left hand side of the area.
- A tupelo will be planted and DPW will be supplying mulch and larger rocks to create a vehicular barrier for protection.
- Planting scheduled for Saturday April 30, 2016 at 11 am at Sandy Point.

Any Funds for Planting? / Nursery Vendor? / Who to plant?

- The Arbor Day planting is the only scheduled planting to occur this year.
- Tree Warden will purchase a tree from one of the local reputable tree nurseries and will prepare the hole for Arbor Day planting.

New Business:

Membership Status

- Commissioner biosketches and statements-of-interest
 - The 2 newly appointed TC members were not present.
 - TC has still not been notified of the 2 new appointees to the Commission

Tree Warden Report:

- UI has not been very active during the past month. UI trucks are still staged in the parking lot next to the Skate Park, but that will cease soon, as the lot will have spring maintenance occurring by the City in advance of the beach season.
- TC asked for a list of the tree complaints that are logged in by DPW, as provided in the past. The Tree Warden will request said list from DPW.
- No other specific complaints received.
- Request for TC members to view a sugar maple on the Green that is in declining health.

Action Items:

- Status of the Vegetative Management Plan permit (that was signed by the Tree Warden and UI) is unknown. Tree Warden will follow up with the City to obtain a copy.
- TC asked for a list of the tree complaints that are logged in by DPW. The Tree Warden will request said list from DPW.
- Balance of the monies in the 2 WHTC accounts has been previously requested via emails to Mark Paine at DPW and has received no response. Tree Warden will follow up with DPW as to their status and Chair Haas will also email Mr. Paine again regarding this issue.

Professional Updates:

Past Events – Ms. Matteo attended the iTREE Streets webinar on 20 April 2016.

Upcoming Events – None noted.

Other Business:

Questions about tree planting - when, how, who funds it

- Ms. Jette asked what is the best time to plant trees, and where do the funds come for the plantings – Discussion ensued, noting that Spring or Fall are best with an emphasis on Fall plantings. Plantings are generally funded through grants and the timing somewhat depends on the grant timing requirements.
- Discussion of the need for a centralized database for tracking the City trees was agreed as a positive and needed thing, however logistics and support would be needed from DPW. This database could be used for planting requests, as well as maintenance and removal tracking.
- Discussion was had about the Nike site for a potential tree nursery. Again, it was noted that logistics and support would be needed from DPW.

Adjourn

The next meeting is set for 17 May 2016 at 7:00 pm, same location.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm.

Attachments follow.

Agenda

DRAFT

West Haven Tree Commission
Meeting Agenda

April 26, 2016

7:00pm

Type of Meeting: Monthly meeting

Invitees: Tree Warden, City of West Haven

Public Session

Secretary's Report: Approval of March 29, 2016 meeting minutes

Old Business

<Strapping removal from Campbell Ave trees

<---Arbor Day Planting (Location decision/Approval?)

<Any Funds for Planting? / Nursery Vendor? / Who to plant?

New Business

<Membership Status

--Commissioner biosketches and statements-of-interest

Tree Warden Report

Professional Updates

Other Business

Adjourn [Next Meeting: May 17, 2016]

DRAFT