

Our Town Trees
Monthly meeting
March 25 2019

Present: C. Geiser, B. Critchley, L. Davis, B. Sutcliffe, H. Birdsall, J. Barnett, J. Clark, K. Syrel (guest)
The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM

Secretary report: The minutes were read and approved.

Old Business

A. Tree Tags: C. Geiser reported that the bill for the tags had been submitted and B. Critchley was reimbursed. She also reported that the list of trees to be identified by the tags is nearly complete, and upon completion, she will approach the DPW with the list and information about the tags.

B. Arbor Day: Celebration will be held on Friday April 26th at 12:30 on the Liberty Street Green. Two classes from the Pierson School will participate in the tree planting. We will also hold a Tree walk with the children along Route 1 following the planting. B. Critchley will write up the Proclamation. C. Geiser will look for a Concolor Fir. C. Geiser was contacted by the Arbor Garden Club and they would like to donate the tree and participate in the day's events. She will follow up with them about date and time, and will also invite Christine Goupil. There was discussion about where to place the tree. One spot identified is by the rotting tree stump on the Green, but prior to planting the tree, the stump should be removed. There was further discussion about who could remove the stump. K. Syrel will contact the DPW and then Christine Goupil about the possibility of the Town crew doing the work. She will also contact CBYD and contact DPW about digging the hole. If necessary, the Tree Committee would be willing to share the cost of the stump removal. L. Davis will notify The Harbor News and invite them to attend the event.

C. Tree Walk Status: The committee will meet in early May to identify which trees in the Elliott Preserve to include in the walk. C. Geiser passed around the old guide as an example of what had been used in the past.

D. High School Tree plan: C. Geiser spoke with Sally Heffernan about the status of the trees at the new Morgan School. She determined that there is not a plan of which trees are planted there. J. Barnett will contact the Environmental Club at the School about the feasibility of working on this for Husky Helper Day.

E. Firehouse Tree: C. Geiser reported that the Van Wilgen's guarantee covers the webworm infected tree for a year, and it was purchased for \$179 on 6/12/2018. L. Davis will follow up again with the Firehouse about replanting the tree. There was some discussion about another location to plant the tree if we do not receive permission from the Firehouse. Perhaps the Police Station is an option. There was also discussion about a tree that needs to be looked at by K. Syrel, near the CVS driveway off of Commerce Street.

New Business

A. Citizens Bank tree removal: K. Syrel reported that she has been in contact with John from Real Estate Operations for Citizen Bank about the removal, and potential replacement of several maple and oak trees along the edge of the bank property. After doing some research, she determined that these trees were planted in the early 1970s prior to the Deep River Savings Bank bought the property. Citizens Bank is willing to plant two baby blue spruce trees, but has not agreed to remove the stumps left from the removed trees. After some discussion, there was a decision to plant two ornamental trees on the property, but first this needs approval from the Bank. In addition, there was discussion about sending a letter in support of the Tree Warden's communications with John and reiterating that the Town and the Committee would like the Two Blue Spruces planted, the stumps removed and the Bank to agree to allow the committee to plant two additional trees. H. Birdsall moved and J. Clark seconded that a letter to this effect be written and sent. A subgroup of the committee will work on this with Kim.

B. Regional Meeting: C. Geiser and J. Barnett attended a regional Tree committee meeting in Branford. The focus of the meeting was how to develop a means to deal with the utility companies in a unified and uniform approach. There will be another meeting on April 25 in Branford, L. Davis and J. Barnett will attend. There was also discussion about how Fairfield is able to plant 200 trees per year, at the cost of \$150 per tree, through a program on the Town website. Citizens of the town can request a tree be planted on their street or personal property. This idea was received favorably by the committee, but with some reservations about the logistics of handling such a similar program in a small town such as Clinton.

Correspondence and Other Business:

B. Critchley shared a thank you note from Patricia Seekamp, the artist.

B. Critchley shared that she had spoken briefly with Christine Goupil about the Klinkii Tree project, and that Christine had responded positively. Her suggestion as to how to get the best results for this program, had been to get the Youth of the town involved in this kind of a project.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Critchley, secretary