

Hamden Tree Commission  
Main Floor Conference Room  
Hamden Government Center  
Meeting of Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

**Minutes**

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Mr. Parlapiano, Ms. Sternberg, Ms. Nathanson

**Commissioners Excused:** Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Cummings

**Others in Attendance:** Consulting Arborist Mr. Harris, Commission Clerk Ms. Tobin

**Call to Order:** Mr. Parlapiano called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Approval of minutes of previous regular meeting of November 19, 2019

Page 2, 4<sup>th</sup> Paragraph, first line change “they” to United Illuminating and TRA to TRM

**Ms. Nathanson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting as amended.**

**Ms. Sternberg seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Approval of minutes of special meeting of January 8, 2020

The Minutes of the January 8<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting were tabled to the February meeting.

Public comments on agenda items – there were no members of the public in attendance

**Old Business**

1. Tree Activity Report

- Public Works: Trees planted/Removed/Pruned/Permits issues
- UI Vegetation Management Status

Mr. Harris said he has nothing to report because United Illuminating has been relieved of their duties within the Town by Mayor Leng. Mr. Harris said he was hoping that the Town would meet with United Illuminating again so the Town and UI would be on the same page. He would be concerned if we had a storm that caused power outages.

In a New Haven Independent article, people in the West Woods area said the Mayor should be focusing on something other than trees. Mr. Harris was at a CTTA meeting last Thursday and another tree warden told him he should not be a tree hugger, he should be taking trees down, which he felt was odd. Mr. Harris said there should be no tree work done in the Town without him looking at it.

2. Notable Trees

Ms. Nathanson reported that a press release just went out on our January notable tree, a heritage river birch. This is our 40<sup>th</sup> notable tree. There was discussion on a notable tree for February. Since we didn't use the Norway Spruce in December, he found one we could probably use. It is located on private property on New Road between Ives Street & Clark's Pond. Ms. Sternberg volunteered to photograph the tree.

3. Education

- Film – Call of the Forest

Ms. Nathanson reported that there were 52 people in attendance at the showing of The Call of the Forest at Best Video and people liked it. She said some parts of the film were fascinating. The \$150 cost of the showing will be paid by the Mayor's Office.

There was discussion on possible educational events. A pruning workshop, tree planting workshop, and a tree walk in a neighborhood identifying trees and doing a tree inventory were mentioned. Mr. Harris mentioned that He was asked to do a tree walk at Brooksvale Park for the Tree Warden's Association in May. There was also discussion on the Sunday, February 2, at 1:30 p.m. tree identification walk at Sleeping Giant.

There was discussion on a way to measure the circumference of trees using a Biltmore Stick, which was developed at the Biltmore Estate. At the February meeting dates for educational events will be determined. There were suggestions made for location including the garden behind Spring Glen School.

4. Tree Ordinance

Mr. Parlapiano said he has turned the revised Tree Ordinance over to the Town Attorney's Office. There was discussion on changing the word Town to Municipality but Mr. Parlapiano has changed it back to Town, because that is what the Town Attorney had used in the original revision.

5. Other Old Business

There was no other old business to discuss.

**New Business**

1. Tree City USA Application

Chris Donnelly, the State's Urban Forester is offering help on the Town's Tree City USA application. Once the tree ordinance is passed, the Town can apply. The Tree City designation makes the Town eligible for the \$5,000 Keep American Beautiful Grant, and possibly other grants.

2. Annual Report

Mr. Parlapiano asked commissioners to write up some information for the 2019 annual report. Ms. Nathanson will prepare a write up on notable trees, Ms. Sternberg will prepare a write up on educational programs and Mr. Harris will prepare a write up on interactions with Public Works. Mr. Montgomery will take care of tree planting.

3. Other New Business

There was no additional new business to discuss.

**Adjournment**

**Ms. Nathanson made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Sternberg seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.**

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk**