

# ***Hamden Tree Commission***

## ***Minute of the Meeting of***

### ***October 21, 2014***

Attending: Andrew Brand, Kyle DeLucia, Jill Nathanson, Thomas Parlapiano, Susan Sternberg

#### **Call to Order**

Chairman Parlapiano called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Parlapiano entertained a motioned to approve the minute of the meeting of September 16, 2014. Mr. Brand motioned to approve the minutes of September 16, 2014, seconded by Ms. Sternberg. *The motion carried unanimously.*

**Public Comments on Agenda Items** – None at this time.

#### **Old Business**

- a. Review draft of mission statement – a brief discussion ensued with various comments and suggestions for the mission statement. Ms. Nathanson submitted a draft and after review and discussion the Commission members agreed to the Mission Statement being one line from the draft. Mr. Parlapiano will present this to the Mayor's office for review and approval. Ms. Nathanson motioned to approve the Mission Statement, seconded by Mr. DeLucia. *The motion carried unanimously.*
- b. Review list of recommended trees from Planning and Zoning – a review of a list of trees from the New Haven web site indicate the types of trees best for planting and in what areas. The Commission would like to see a list created for Hamden to better help serve the various areas of town to help avoid the current problem with trees growing into the power lines to void some of the un-slightly trimming that is done. Mr. Brand and Mr. DeLucia will review the New Haven list and provide recommendations to the members for review.

#### **New Business**

- a. Discuss goals – Ms. Nathanson noted that the Mayor has mentioned hiring an Arborist and that he would like members of the Commission to be part of the hiring process. The possibility of Mr. Greene the Tree Warden becoming an Arborist was discussed. Mr. DeLucia noted that the course is a weekly class for approximately 4 – 6 months and they would like to possibly see this happen.
- b. Request for tree Removal
- c. Request for tree stump grinding
- d. Request for tree planting
- e. Emergencies

At this time the Commission engaged in a lengthy discussion as they felt all four of the items, b, c, d and e were actually all one issue to be discussed. At this time the Public Works department who handle all request has an extensive list and to help catch up Mr. DeLucia suggests bringing in a private contractor to help with this. Mr. Cesare, Director

of Public Works has noted that at the present time he has one complete tree crew and would like to hire and get equipment for a second. At this time Mr. DeLucia noted it would be more cost effective to bring in the private contractor, catch up on the work and also look into a reporting system to better control the work process. Mr. DeLucia did mention that the system he presently uses in his work would cost approximately \$3,000 initially with a \$600 monthly fee. The commission would like very much to discuss this with Mr. Cesare and will request he attend the November 17, 2014 meeting. A web page with information on how to request various work along with a form to be completed and submitted would be helpful to both the residents and the department. Mr. Parlapiano will contact P&Z to discuss future communications between the Commission and P&Z. A number of ideas were discussed on how to get the community involved. One idea is to create a passbook and have elementary students note the trees they find and possibly a brochure on how to care for a tree to get the community involved. There are Grants that can help with some of the possible projects and there re Grants for Civic Associations. Possibly set a goal to plant many trees as possibly in a 5 year period. Do a drive by inventory. It is also important that the Commission acquire a list of the UI's trees and where and when they will be worked on this information will help the Commission with their goals. Mr. Parlapiano requested each Commissioner submit goals, long and short term, management, inventory and educational.

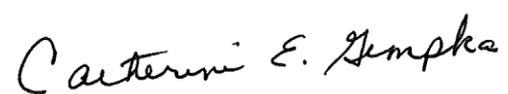
- f. Review Town and State ordinances regarding tree pruning/removal – this item is being carried over for the November 17, 2014 meeting.
- g. Approval of schedule(s) meetings o calendar year 2015 – After a brief discussion the Commission agrees to adopt the 12 month meeting schedule. Mr. Brand motioned to approve the 12 month scheduled meeting list, seconded by Ms. Nathanson. ***The motion carried unanimously.***
- h. Procedures for request from Help Desk – at this time no one is sure how the request are routed. It was further discussed that the Commission needs to find out from Mr. Cesare how he handles the request and will the system possibly be electronic by 2016. The Commission would like to see combined efforts with the Commission and Public Works. Mr. Greene should have a check list along with a tree assessment form and a program should be in place that all can use giving a category number 1-10 for the tree and what the status of a tree is. There could be trees already down that are presently on the existing list and an electronic tracking system would help elevate this type of situation. The Commission really wants to work with Mr. Cesare and as previously noted with invite him to the next meeting.

### **Adjournment**

At 8:14 p.m. Ms. Nathanson motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. DeLucia. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

*The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, November 18, 2014 in the Main Floor Conference Room 6:30 p.m.*

Recorded by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine E. Gempka". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Catherine E. Gempka  
Commissin Clerk