

Hamden Tree Commission

Minute of the Meeting of

November 18, 2014

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

Absent: Kyle DeLucia

Call to Order

Chairman Parlapiano called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Parlapiano entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 21, 2014. Mr. Brand motioned to approve the minutes of October 21, 2014 with a correction to Old Business item *b* sixth line the word New Haven should be Hamden, seconded by Ms. Sternberg. *The motion carried unanimously.*

Public Comments on Agenda Items – None at this time.

Chairman Parlapiano read from an email from the Town Clerk Vera Morrison. The email was forwarded from a resident asking if fallen trees on town or state property within Hamden could be removed by residents for use as firewood. Chairman Parlapiano did not feel it was within the responsibility of the Tree Commission to respond and left it to other town entities.

Chairman Parlapiano referred to some correspondence received by email from Ms. Sternberg. A brief discussion ensued with Ms. Sternberg noting she had attended a recent conference where she was able to speak with Mr. David Goodson of United Illuminating Co. about the Enhanced Tree Trimming (ETT) plans and the availability of maps detailing the proposed work in Hamden. Chairman Parlapiano would like to invite Mr. Goodson to a future meeting to review UI's plans and their street tree maps of Hamden. Ms. Sternberg also mentioned Mr. Chris Donnelly, the State Forester, who may be able to help with grant information. Ms. Sternberg distributed some tree related brochures she picked up at the conference published by the Town of Fairfield. The brochures had a variety of information on the benefits of urban trees. The Commission suggested perhaps brochures such as these could be developed for Hamden and made available on the Commission's page on the Town's website.

Old Business

- a. Changes to recommended tree. Mr. Brand noted that it is difficult to find tree species that will actually fit under power lines when full grown. Mr. Brand mentioned an existing recommended list published by Glenn Dreyer, Arboretum Director at Connecticut College which also contains plant species including shrubs for under power lines. Mr. Brand will revise his list for the December meeting. Ms. Nathanson also reviewed lists from other towns and found that some of the trees on their lists were not good choices for Hamden.
- b. Arborist position – Chairman Parlapiano contacted the mayor to discuss this but had not heard back as of the time of the meeting. Chairman Parlapiano suggested that the

- part-time arborist the mayor would like to hire might be useful until a member of the Hamden Public Works staff could receive training and become a licensed arborist. It would be in the best interest of the town to have an arborist on staff and to train all crew members on best practices of pruning and trimming.
- c. Addressing tree crew back log – Chairman Parlapiano would like to review this with Mr. Cesare. This item will appear on the December 2014 agenda.

New Business

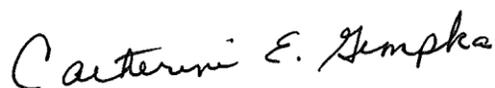
- a. Barrett Street Tree Public Hearing outcome – after hearing from a number of Hamden citizens, the Tree Warden decided not to remove the tree. Instead it will be pruned and monitored. It was mentioned during the hearing that the Town currently has no written tree policy or standards. Chairman Parlapiano stated developing these policies and standards should be a priority. The Commission will work with Mr. Cesare on this.
- b. The issue was raised concerning a tree taken down on Wakefield St. for the benefit of a resident to install solar panels on their home. The tree in question was blocking the sun and would interfere with the solar energy to be generated. Ms. Nathanson will check to verify the information and process.
- c. Review Town and State ordinances regarding tree pruning/removal: Chairman Parlapiano would like to invite Mr. Brendan Sharkey, CT Legislative Majority Leader to a meeting to review this item. He would like Mr. Cesare and Mr. Greene to also be present
- d. Goals – Commission members sent drafts to Ms. Nathanson and a brief discussion ensued. Ms. Nathanson will consolidate the ideas following a format which includes long and short term goals and provide this for the December 2014 meeting.
- e. Other new business – There was no other business at this time.

Adjournment

At 8:12 p.m. Ms. Sternberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Brand. *The motion carried unanimously.*

The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday December 16, 2014 in the Main Floor Conference Room, Hamden Government Center at 6:30 p.m.

Recorded by,



Catherine E. Gempka
Commissin Clerk