

Hamden Tree Commission

Minutes of the Meeting of

January 20, 2015

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

Absent: Kyle DeLucia

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Parlapiano entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 16, 2014. Chairman Parlapiano noted that on page two item (a) Curt Leng should be Brandon Sharkey. Ms. Sternberg noted that also on page two item (a) Mr. Donnley should be Donnelly. Mr. Brand motioned to approve the minutes with the corrections, seconded by Ms. Sternberg.

The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Ms. Janet Kazienko, 32 Fern St. – Ms. Kazienko inquired about an update from the UI on their plan. Chairman Parlapiano indicated that he has spoken with the Mayor and at this time the question is on permits for the work, will they be a blanket permit or individual permits. When he has additional information he will let the members know and Ms. Kazienko. Also Ms. Kazienko inquired about the list of trees the Tree Warden is working on. Chairman Parlapiano noted that he is still working on attaining this information. He was hoping Mr. Cesare would be here for the meeting but will follow up on this.

Old Business

- a. Review update Draft of Goals – Ms. Nathanson noted that one item was missing from their short term section and that is the Tree Ordinance. After a brief review Mr. Brand motioned to approve the Goals with the addition of the Tree Ordinance, seconded by Ms. Nathanson. ***The motion carried unanimously.*** When the Ordinance is complete Ms. Nathanson will forward to all members and the clerk. The clerk will send this on to the Mayor and the Town Attorney. A brief discussion ensued with Ms. Sternberg noting that she would like to see an Arboretum (an area devoted to specimen planning) at Davis St. & Whitney Ave. The area has been in the past maintained by various garden clubs but since it is a Gateway to Hamden she thought it would be as a good idea to work on this. Chairman Parlapiano noted that the Town would have to maintain it, noting who would provide the plantings etc. Ms. Sternberg mentioned possibly Hamden Hall Country Day School and Roche & Dinkeloo possibly funding the project. Chairman Parlapiano thinks this is a good idea but not at this time. The Commission being new has some work that needs to be completed and would like to review this at a later date.
- b. Changes to recommended tree list – Mr. Brand has been trying to reach Mr. Ken Bullard of the UI to get a list from them of trees. Mr. Brand will email Mr. Bullard

- again. The Commission reviewed the list they currently have but there are too many variables and would like the UI list to compare with.
- c. Arborist position – Chairman Parlapiano spoke with the Mayor and the Mayor would like recommendations from the Commission. The position will be until the end of June as funding is in place right now. The Mayor will discuss the detail of the position with the candidates he eventually meets with. Chairman Parlapiano did have one resume he shared with the members. Ms. Sternberg did research and found a few possible candidates she will reach out to them to see if they are interested. Mr. Brand also has couple of people in mind and he will make some calls. The possible candidates must be ISA Certified.
 - d. Tree List – Addressing tree crew work load – Chairman Parlapiano was hoping Mr. Cesare would be present this meeting. He will contact Mr. Cesare to meet with him in his office. Mr. Brand offered to go to the meeting with him.
 - e. Tree Ordinance – This item was discussed and decided on under item *a*.

New Business

- a. i-Tree Canopy Project – the members have gone into the web site for this and Ms. Sternberg found a program that she will review again and bring back to the members for the February meeting. The program provides various reports also defining project areas. This information can be used at the Earth Day Event.
- b. Earth Day Event – April 18, 2015 – Chairman Parlapiano advised the members that he was submitting an application for a table at the event. A brief discussion ensued regarding possible projects for the visitors to this event. One project noted is a Street Tree program.
- c. Arbor Day, April 24, 2015 – The Commission would like to do a tree planting, the location to be determined.
- d. Other new business – Chairman Parlapiano reviewed a series of emails between himself and the Mayor regarding the Permitting Process for the UI. He noted three items; 1) an Arborist should be in place before work starts, 2) who will cover mistakes made by the UI, 3) this should be in writing and an electronic list of all trees the UI have tagged. The UI would like a Blanket Permit but some restrictions should be in place with that permit if issued. Ms. Sternberg hopes the Arborist will be able to review the UI tree electronic list as this would be helpful in the process. Also can the Arborist appeal any of the tagged trees, what will the process be? Ms. Nathanson inquired if the UI can be asked to provide a Bond?

Ms. Nathanson mentioned there was an “Open House” sign nailed to a tree at Whitney Ave. and Glendower Rd. Things such as this have been reported to P&Z but no one knows if action has ever been taken against the violator(s).

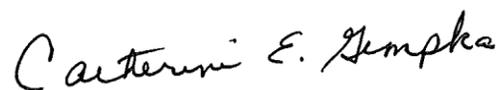
Ms. Sternberg mentioned an email she received from Colleen Murphy about an event to be held at the Yale School of Forestry. The keynote speaker will be William Bird. She will forward the information on to the Commission members. Ms. Sternberg also attended a two day symposium on Landscaping also attended by Larry Weiner.

Adjournment

At 8:08 p.m. Ms. Sternberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Brand. *The motion carried unanimously.*

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, February 17, 2015 in the Main Floor Conference Room 6:30 p.m.

Recorded by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine E. Gempka".

Catherine E. Gempka
Commissin Clerk