

Hamden Tree Commission

Minutes of the Meeting of

March 17, 2015

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

Call to Order

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

Guest: Mr. David Goodson, United Illuminating Company and Mr. Eric McConnell

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Parlapiano entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2015. Chairman Parlapiano noted one typo on page 1 under Public Comments the word plant should be *plans*. Nathanson motioned to approve the minutes with the corrections, seconded by Mr. Brand. *The motion carried unanimously.*

Public Comments on Agenda Items – Nothing at this time!

Mr. David Goodson, United Illuminating Company spoke with the Commission on a number of topics. The UI is now installing utility poles 45ft high to accommodate tree growth. The present poles are 30ft high and as we know the trees have grown into the wires. There are three layers to the wires, primary, low voltage and communications. Mr. Goodson noted that the UI has a four year and eight year plan and that they are in the four year plan now.

Mr. Goodson inquired about the plans of the Commission and the Town as to what type of trees they are planning on planting.

MR. Parlapiano stated that is why he invited a representative from the UI to get a better understanding of the plans of the UI and get their input on what types of trees to plant.

Mr. Goodson noted that the new poles will allow trimming and not extensive pruning. Ms. Nathanson stated that she has researched trees with 25ft growth but also recognizes that they can grow taller.

Mr. Goodson advised the members that there are some funds that can help with the purchasing of trees. Mr. Goodson also spoke of the current recycling being done with the trees that are being taken down. The Town would store the chips, logs would become lumber and fire wood and some to go to a pallet mill but that some wood is not suitable for some of these things. These products will be available for sale and the funds generated from the sale will stay with the town. Ms. Sternberg inquired about infected trees and Mr. Goodson noted that those trees can't leave New Haven County.

Ms. Nathanson inquired as to how many trees removed in North Haven were Ash and Mr. Goodson didn't have that information.

Mr. Goodson stated that the residents will receive a letter and that the UI will be going door to door to get consent for either removal and/or trimming. The homeowner has the option to say no or modify the request of the UI.

The Commission asked for data from UI be shared with the town. Mr. Goodson asked that they send him an email and he will get them what they are looking for.

Ms. Nathanson asked if UI has had any discussion with the town engineer regarding storm water, she realizes this is a broad question but this is an area she feels should be addressed. Mr. Goodson wasn't aware of any storm water problems but would go over his information to make sure.

Old Business

1. Update on Consulting Arborist position – Chairman Parlapiano advised the members that someone has been hired for the position but he has no information at this time. He will let them know as soon as he does have the name of the individual.
2. Status of Public Works Tree List – The list is still being compiled and the Commission would like input from Mr. Cesare. This item will appear on the April 21, 2015 agenda.
3. Status: Mission Statement and Goals – Chairman Parlapiano is waiting to hear from Mayor Jackson on these two items.
4. Earth Day Event Update – Mr. Parlapiano Ms. Sternberg advised the Commission that she did get the copies of the Brochure completed with the help of Pam Roach. A discussion of activities ensued with two activities at the top of the list but no finalization on them.
5. Arbor Day – April 24, 2015 – Additional discussion ensued as to the location of planting a tree. Mr. Parlapiano and Mr. Brand will be meeting with Mr. Cesare on Monday, March 23, 2015 and will discuss this further and hopefully have a plan in place.
6. i-Tree Canopy Project – Ms. Sternberg unfortunately due to other commitments wasn't able to continue on this project but plans to resume this week. This item will appear on the agenda for the April 21, 2015 meeting.
7. Letter to Residents – Mr. Parlapiano provided the members with a draft for review. This letter is to go to residents who are on the Untied Illuminating's schedule for tree trimming and/or removal. This letter is to inform the residents of the process and their rights. The commission will be discussing this through emails to expedite the completion of the letter for submission to the Mayor for approval.
8. Tree Ordinance – Mr. Parlapiano provided information to the members to help build the Tree Ordinance. Ms. Nathanson did find a template and viewed other town's Tree Ordinance's and found there is an abundance of information to be reviewed. The members will review the information and send on their thoughts to help Ms. Nathanson compile a document for Hamden. This continues to be a work in progress.

New Business

- 1 Tree recommendations for upcoming Public Works projects – Mr. Parlapiano and Mr. Brand will be meeting with Mr. Cesare, Director of Public Works on Monday, March 23, 2015 to discuss various topics. The Public Works Tree List and any other projects the Public Works has on their schedule. Also what tree types are planned for various projects around Town!
- 2 Review of application for tree work related to the fence removal around Woodin Street - Mr. Brand received a copy of the application from Tom Vocelli, Planning and Zoning Office regarding some removal of trees to be done by New Haven at Augustine St. & Woodin St. Both Mr. Brand and Mr. Vocelli have some questions

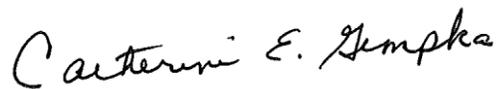
- and will be going to look at the site to verify just what trees are to be removed. The map provided wasn't clear and an inspection of the site is needed.
- 3 Other new Business - Ms. Sternberg mentioned the work of removing trees at Hamden Hall Country Day School for their new building. She said a large area will be cleared of trees and that Planning and Zoning has approved this application. The clerk advised the members that she received an email from the Town Clerk, Vera Morrison that Kyle DeLucia has resigned from the Tree Commission.

Adjournment

At 8:39 p.m. Ms. Sternberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Nathanson. *The motion carried unanimously.*

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, April 21, 2015 in the Main Floor Conference Room 6:30 p.m.

Recorded by,



Catherine E. Gempka
Commissin Clerk