

Hamden Tree Commission

Minutes of the Meeting of April 21, 2015

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

Also Attending: Craig Cesare, Director Public Works, Geoffrey Harris, Consulting Arborist for Hamden

Call to Order

Chairman Parlapiano called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Parlapiano entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 17, 2015. Chairman Parlapiano noted one typo on page 1, approval of minutes his name should be *Parlapiano*. Mr. Brand motioned to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by Ms. Nathanson. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

At this time Chairman Parlapiano welcomed Mike Montgomery to the Commission and asked him to give a brief background on himself. Mr. Montgomery was with the US Forest Service and also served on the Hamden Inland Wetland Commission for 15 years. Mr. Montgomery was also involved in a group in 1989 after the tornado in Hamden in replacing the trees lost to the storm.

Public Comments on Agenda Items – Nothing at this time!

Old Business

1. Update on Consulting Arborist position – Mr. Geoffrey Harris was welcomed aboard. Mr. Harris is looking forward to working with the Commission.
2. Status of Public Works Tree List – Mr. Cesare advised the Commission that he is in the process of trying to do an independent inventory but the cost of a project like this is thousands the town doesn't have at this time. Mr. Parlapiano inquired if there is any outside funding? Mr. Cesare stated that at this time there are some funds but not enough to begin to cover a project like this.
3. Earth Day Event Feedback – The event was a success. The Commission had a table and gave away red oak tree saplings. A number of residents inquired about their rights when the UI notifies them of work to be done on their street. Chairman Parlapiano was pleasantly surprised at the number of attendees and homeowner questions.
4. i-Tree Canopy – Ms. Sternberg noted she wasn't able to continue on the project and described what she has done for Mr. Montgomery. Mr. Montgomery is familiar with the program and will help Ms. Sternberg with completing the project. Ms. Sternberg noted she has completed the lower half of Hamden.
5. Letters to Residents – Mr. Parlapiano has not had a response yet from the Mayor's office and with all the recent changes he will inquire again. Ms. Nathanson inquired

- if he Commission could do a blanket notice to the UI not to take down any healthy trees. Mr. Cesare advised the members that the Town Tree Warden Mr. Greene would have to do that. Mr. Harris noted that there is an Ash Tree problem right now in north Hamden.
6. Tree Ordinance – Ms. Nathanson advised the members that she is still working on this. Mr. Parlapiano would like to meet in the near future to get the project complete. The members will be in touch with each other by email to set up a date and time.
 7. Review of Inland Wetlands Application for tree work related to Woodin Street project – Mr. Brand spoke with Mr. Vocelli and he advised Mr. Brand that there were only a few small trees that would come down and it would not impact Belden Brook. Ms. Sternberg inquired about the Town Center Park project and Mr. Cesare advised the Commission that this work will start later. He noted that the State DOT wants to add a right turn lane at the corner of Dixwell and Whitney Avenues and this would delay the work to be done from the library to Whitney Ave. along Dixwell Ave. He noted that Town Center Park needs trees and will do some research regarding types and species that are good for the area. He would like to install antique street lights in the area but again this is all on hold due to construction to be done in both areas.

New Business

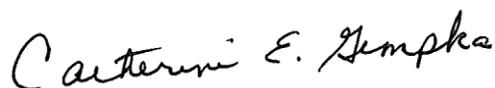
- 1 Arbor Day and other tree planting projects – Mr. Cesare advised the Commission that he went to Barraclough Ave. to mark where trees are to be planted on Saturday, April 25, 2015. He has contacted the “Call before you dig” people to make sure the trees can be planted where he has indicated with a white painted circle. He is looking for types and species for the area. Mr. Brand stated he may have some trees for him. Ms. Sternberg inquired who orders the trees for the town. Mr. Cesare orders trees. This project will only be for about 6 – 8 trees and he will get them this week. When he requires a large number of tree he will ask for bids and will specify the species and types of tree he needs.
- 2 Other new Business – Mr. Parlapiano received an email from Julie Smith regarding the web site to be created for the Tree Commission. A brief discussion ensued with Mr. Parlapiano asking the members to send him any suggestions. Ms. Sternberg inquired if the Tree Brochure can be downloaded to the site in the information section? Mr. Parlapiano will add that to the list.

Adjournment

At 8:20 p.m. Ms. Sternberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Brand. *The motion carried unanimously.*

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, May 19, 2015 in the Main Floor Conference Room 6:30 p.m.

Recorded by,



Catherine E. Gempka
Commissin Clerk