

Hamden Tree Commission

Main Floor Conference Room, Hamden Government Center

Meeting of Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 6:30 P.M.

Minutes

Commissioners in Attendance: Tom Parlapiano, Jill Nathanson, Susan Sternberg

Commissioners Excused: Andy Brand, Mike Montgomery

Others in Attendance: Commission Clerk Gerry Tobin

Call to order

Mr. Parlapiano called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of November 15, 2016

Ms. Sternberg made a motion to approve the minutes of November 15, 2016. Ms. Nathanson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Old Business

1. Public Works Tree Activity Report

Trees Planted/Removed/Pruned/Permits Issued

Mr. Harris commented that a tree on Woodlawn Street has been posted. It is a Norway Maple and is in pretty bad shape. A new Norway Maple has been planted next to it.

Regarding the mention of a Locust on Harmon Street – Mr. Harris said there is no Locust on Harmon Street.

There was discussion on the dead Ash trees not being addressed while other trees are still being posted.

Mr. Harris said Public Works has taken down a couple of hazardous Ash, but there is a whole row of them on Westwoods Road and another 25 across the street. Public Works has been collecting leaves and snow plowing, and he believes Mr. Greene is aware.

An attorney in Bridgeport called Mr. Harris today about a limb that fell and hit someone in the head causing a concussion. This happened at an event where tables had been set up under some trees.

Mr. Harris mentioned some large trees: a Pin Oak at 121 Thornton Street with a circumference of 141"; a magnificent Black Oak on Pine Rock Road near the New Haven Line with a 216 circumference (a diameter of 5 3/4'). The Connecticut record and the National Champion measured 347" circumference (9' diameter); on Main Street a

maple that is on the Connecticut and National list has a diameter of almost 6'; a tulip tree in South Windsor that measures 141' high.

Mr. Parlapiano wondered who else to notify regarding hazardous trees. He will send his initial email on the subject to Mr. Cesare with a copy to Mayor Leng and Art Giulletti, who is the Town's Risk Manager.

Mr Harris said he mentioned the copies of permits to Mr. Greene. Mr. Harris said it will never happen.

Public Works called Mr. Harris for an assessment on three trees at 305 Hillfield Road. One was a dead Ash, another a Choke Cherry that is 1/2 to 3/4 down and needs to be removed, and a Maple that should stay. He is not positive if they are on Town property. He also mentioned a Shagbark at the end of the driveway that should not be removed. Ms. Nathanson will update the homeowner.

2. UI Vegetation Management Status

Mr. Parlapiano said he has not heard anything regarding UI. Mr. Harris said they are moving along in his area and some significant trees were removed. UI removals do not need to be posted. They can be removed if the homeowner and UI agree.

There was discussion on solar power.

3. Notable Trees Update

Mr. Parlapiano mentioned that the New Haven Register gave half a page to Ms. Nathanson's tree. Ms. Nathanson said she sent Patrick the information on the White Oak at 229 Johnson Road for December. For January, the Sugar Maple on Benham Street near Alphabet Academy would be a good choice. Commissioners agreed Mrs. Small might want to nominate it. Ms. Nathanson will call her.

Ms. Nathanson said she received an email from a woman about a White Oak at 42 Mather Street. Sonja Hals mentioned that the house is called The Oak and was built in 1901. This might work for February.

4. Updated Drafts of Pruning and Planting Policies

- Standard of Care Policy for trees planted in public areas

Ms. Sternberg said this is still a working document. Mr. Parlapiano printed it out and edited it and said the content is really good. He found something about ANSI 300 standards on urbanforestry.com. There was further discussion. Ms. Sternberg said Mr. Brand gave her some input. There was discussion on educating the tree crew. The proper way to cut a limb was mentioned. Ms. Sternberg would like more input from Commissioners.

5. Tree Requests

There have been no new tree requests.

6. Other Old Business

There was no additional old business.

New Business

1. Annual Report Feedback

Mr. Parlapiano sent the Commission's Annual Report to Mayor Leng and the Legislative Council and has not received any feedback. He gave Diane Hoffman a copy and she wrote to the Mayor and he responded to her. He told her he had some concerns and wants to meet with the Tree Commission. He will call for an appointment

2. Brooksvale Park – Ash Trees

The location of the trees was discussed and it is apparently near the ball field. Mr. Harris said it is not the right time of year to make a determination. Mr. Parlapiano said those trees have been noted for at least eight years. There was discussion on the introduction of wasps in certain areas that was not successful. There was also discussion on the introduction of a fungus that has helped to reduce the gypsy moth population.

3. Trees at 305 Hillfield

Mentioned above.

4. Other New Business

There was no additional new business.

Adjournment

Ms. Nathanson made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Sternberg seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Submitted by: _____