

# Tree Commission

Hamden, Connecticut

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

This meeting was held via Zoom. Topic: Hamden Tree Commission

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## Call to Order

Mr. Parlapiano called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

## Commission Members

Thomas Parlapiano - *Chair*

Glen Cummings

Michael Montgomery

Susan Sternberg

## Others in Attendance

Geoff Harris - *Consulting Arborist*

Diane Hoffman

Alyssa Bussard - *Commission Clerk*

## Agenda

Approval of May 18, 2021 Minutes

Mr. Parlapiano asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on May 18, 2021. The motion was made by Ms. Sternberg and seconded by Mr. Cummings. The motion passed unanimously in favor.

## Public Comments on Agenda Items

Ms. Diane Hoffman spoke regarding the program in Boise where they are trying to plant trees for every household. Ms. Nathanson had sent out a link prior to the meeting to the commission members. Ms. Hoffman also spoke in favor of the commission moving forward with hybrid meetings which will give the public more of an opportunity to attend meetings.

## Old Business

### 1. Tree Activity Report

#### a. Public Works - Trees planted/removed/pruned/permit issues

There was no update at this time.

#### b. UI Vegetation Management

There was no update at this time.

#### c. Consulting Arborist Update

Mr. Harris spoke regarding the beech leaf disease. He stated that there is a very heightened disease emerging killing a large number of beech trees. He spoke to Dr. Yonghao Li from the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology about this disease and they were horrified to see how prevalent it is. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station requested that signs of beech leaf disease should be reported to the local arborist. He relayed frustration regarding the lack of information and movement on how to combat this disease as it is not something new being faced.

Mr. Harris recommended a magazine called 2 Million Blossoms to the commission.

## 2. Notable Trees

After a discussion, it was decided to showcase a sugi cryptomeria tree for the month of June.

## 3. Tree Planting

Mr. Montgomery stated that he is drafting a new list of notable trees. Once completed, he will share it with the commission before it goes to other councils for approval.

## 4. Education

Mr. Parlapiano brought up the idea of doing a “tree trail” which is similar to a project at Brooksvale Park that was done by the Eagle Scouts. They could create this trail and have the information available on the website for people to download and follow on their own. Ms. Sternberg and Mr. Montgomery will begin working on this.

## 5. Commission Liaison Report

Mr. Cummings reported that he did not attend any other commission meetings.

## 6. Epoc Grant Update

Mr. Parlapiano stated that the commission did not obtain the grant. However, he is hoping to get feedback that will assist them in applying again.

## 7. Letter regarding Connecticut SB950: An Act Concerning The Replacement of Public Utility Poles and Revising Vegetation Management in Utility Protection Zones.

As discussed last month, Mr. Parlapiano did edit the letter and send it to the two state senators.

## 8. Tree Ordinance

Mr. Parlapiano shared that the Town Attorney stated that the way in which the ordinance separated the tree warden from the superintendent of trees did match the state law. This was the ordinance sent to the Mayor. Mr. Parlapiano followed up with the Mayor and has not yet received a response.

## New Business

## 1. New Grant Opportunity

Mr. Parlapiano shared that there is a new grant opportunity. The deadline for the Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant Program is September 30, 2021. This grant requires a 50% match. He is going to speak with Julie Smith and report back to the commission with more details.

The commission discussed moving forward with in-person meetings. They will most likely reconvene in person in September.

## Adjournment

Mr. Parlapiano requested a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Mr. Montgomery and seconded by Mr. Cummings. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting concluded at 7:31pm.