

Helena Bailey Spencer/ Val Gallivan Tree Committee
March 10, 2022
SPD Conference Room

Present : Sue Mayne, Joyce Zien, Todd Mervosh, Kevin Sullivan, Ginny Bromage, Connie Murray and Michele Holcomb. Guests: Greg Foran (Park Superintendent & Tree Warden—Town of Glastonbury, CT) and Sharon Meehan (Tree Committee – Town of Bloomfield, CT).

Absent: Anita Wardell, Jack Henrie, Judy Hanmer, Aggie Shulte, Mike Turgeon and Colin Moll.

In order to respect Mr. Foran's schedule, Sue asked him to speak prior to the Tree Committee scheduled business meeting.

Greg started his presentation at 3:10 p.m. with an overview of the job responsibilities in his role as Park Superintendent and Tree Warden for the Town of Glastonbury and shared stories of successes and missteps during his tenure. He outlined the steps that were taken to set up a separate fund for tree planting and went over the credentials required of a tree warden as well as explaining the CEU's to maintain accreditation. He shared his knowledge of tree varieties and their importance to the environment as a whole. Sue thanked Greg for his time and willingness to share his knowledge with the Tree Committee.

At 3:55 p.m. Sharon spoke about the steps taken by her Committee to set up a separate fund for tree planting and the role of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving in that task. She also shared that the Bloomfield DPW takes responsibility for digging the holes, watering and composting all newly-planted trees. Sue thanked Sharon for her time and willingness to share Bloomfield's experience with the Suffield Tree Committee.

Sue Mayne, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

Joyce motioned and Connie seconded to approve the minutes of the 2-17-22 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Sue had emailed the treasurer's report to the Committee members prior to the meeting. Michele motioned and Connie seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion passed unanimously.

Sue gave an update on the recent tree removal, by Eversource, of 5 trees on the Green adjacent to Suffield Academy and Kevin is currently researching donations to replace these 5 trees.

Sue asked the Committee if they were willing to serve another 1-year term and all agreed.

Sue gave an overview of a fund the Garden Club is creating for tree replacement and asked the Committee members if they'd be willing to donate \$100 each toward this fund. The yes vote was unanimous.

Earth Day and Arbor Day will be celebrated on April 23 and April 30 respectively. In recognition of Earth and Arbor Days, Eversource will be donating and planting 3 trees sometime this spring (Committee will be given a list from which to select and can determine when and where to plant).

Sue reviewed the parameters around the Spencer Fund and explained the EAB treatment at the King House.

Kevin gave an update on the collaboration with Pride Corners Farm to grow bare-root trees. He has arranged a tour of Pride on Monday, May 2, 12:30 p.m. for the Suffield Garden Club and invited the Tree Committee to join.

Sue asked if members would be willing to research the following: Special Events & Guest Speakers, Fundraising, Grant Opportunities & Matching Grants, Marketing & Social Media, Publicity & Communications, Volunteers and Ordinances. Joyce volunteered to participate in fundraising, specifically reaching out to the banks in the community.

A special meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 3 p.m., Town Hall. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 12, 2022, 3 p.m., Town Hall.

Connie motioned and Michele seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Bromage, Secretary