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The Helena Bailey Spencer Tree Fund Committee

The Helena Spencer Tree Committee meeting was held on January 15, 2026 at 3:00 pm via Zoom.

Present were Chairman Sue Mayne, Anita Wardell, Connie Murray, Danna Gaunter, Todd Mervosh, Treasurer Kacy Colston, First Selectman, Colin Moll and Judith Hanmer, Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm. The Secretary's report was accepted.

Treasurer Colston presented the Treasurer's report. It was noted that \$5680.03 was available from the Valyn Galivan Fund to be used for the planting of trees. It was also noted that \$7071.75 was deposited in the Municipal account as a result of the Sustainable CT match campaign. Past paid bills were listed. The treasurer was thanked for the detailed report. To make the \$5680 available for spring planting, Colin moved and Judy seconded to transfer \$5680 from the Gallivan Account to the Municipal Account for ease of use of funds for the tree plantings.

There was no input from the Community

Winter pruning was discussed as to how important it was for the growth of the younger trees and the good job done by Bill's Landscaping and Bartlett Trees. There will be additional pruning on 3 red maples and a Hornbeam.

Upcoming events were discussed.

Spring tree planting and the finding and purchasing of appropriate trees is still in progress. Both North Main and South Main will be planted. The question was discussed as to how or whether to let homeowners know who would be receiving trees in front of their property. Although on State property it is hoped that homeowners will help with watering and care.

We'll need to track and document expenses for the Sustainable CT project and submit with additional photo documentation in order to close out the project.

Trees for Free program will be simplified this year by having homeowners pick up and plant trees without Tree Committee supervision. They need to be ordered and publicity sent out.

Upcoming Events:

CTPA ArborDay Poster Contest for 5th Graders will be handled by Danna and Colin with Danna providing a packet for each of the 5th grade teachers and accompanying Colin on January 23 to the school.

Judy and Danna will work on the 250 Arbor Day tree event. Judy will do the publicity for the April Observer. It will be held on Saturday, April 25 at 4 in the afternoon.

Suffield Parks and Rec will do the publicity for Picnic in the Park held on June 6.

New members and or volunteers were discussed. Outreach with other groups to raise awareness was also noted. Future activities were discussed but nothing decided.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25.

Next meeting: March 19, 2026, 3:00 pm via Zoom

Judith Hanmer, Secretary