

Hamden Tree Commission

Meeting of Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

WEBINAR ID 931-7333-6017

PASSWORD conifer

Call in # 1 301 715-8592

Commissioners in attendance: Mr. Parlapiano, Ms. Nathanson, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Montgomery, Ms. Sternberg

Others in Attendance: Consulting Arborist Harris, HAT Representative Ms. Hoffman, Interested Citizen Mr. Powers, Commission Clerk Tobin

Call to Order

Mr. Parlapiano called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

Approval of minutes of regular meeting of June 16, 2020

Pg. 2, last paragraph, first line, change will be to could; Page 3, paragraph 1, second sentence, change He to Mr. Montgomery and insert after worked, on getting dead trees removed. Second paragraph, midway, change Calgary to callery.

Mr. Montgomery made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2020 meeting as corrected. Ms. Nathanson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Public comments on agenda items

Mr. Hoffman said she is interested in hearing about the Tree Ordinance. Mr. Powers had no comment.

Old Business

1. Tree Activity Report

Mr. Harris said he continues to work with Lewis and Asplundh Tree Services with various work planners on the capital project. He noted that he objected to some tree removals and they were pruned instead, and consented to one removal on Myra Road. These were in the areas of Myra, North Sheffield, Prospect Court, Filbert and Bedford Streets. He also met regarding a lot of different streets in the blocks of 1000, 1100 and 1200 blocks off of Whitney Avenue that will get the power upgrade.

He said that John Torgeson has retired from public works and some layoffs are coming. The tree warden has been in the hospital again. Mike Siciliano and Joe Collelo are trying to contact the tree warden training people. Mr. Harris gave Mr. Colello the information. Mr. Torgeson had the license for pesticide application. Mr. Siciliano will talk to Mr. Cesare about that.

Regarding the decommissioning of the substation on Whitney Avenue near the Eli Whitney Museum, Mr. Harris met with representatives of the Regional Water Authority, United Illuminating, the RWA arborist and Lewis Tree regarding the pine trees close to the wires on Whitney Avenue. All were saved except one that was leaning.

- Public Works: Trees planted/Removed/Pruned/Permits issues
- UI Vegetation Management Status

2. Notable Trees

Ms. Nathanson said if Mr. Montgomery sends the information on the sargent cherry, she will write it up. We did not have notable trees for March, April, May or June. Ms. Nathanson met with a person that works with Mr. Parlapiano who mentioned a Persian silk tree within 10' of the pavement at the corner of Hepburn Road in Ridge Hill. Mr. Harris said it looks like a mimosa. The Persian silk tree is named after an Italian nobleman. It is called a mimosa locally. Mr. Parlapiano said that the tree is a non native invasive variety which we should not promote. There was further discussion. Ms. Nathanson said we will use the sargent cherry for July. There was discussion on what tree to use for August. Mr. Parlapiano mentioned a black willow on Wakefield Street. Mr. Montgomery mentioned the trees where the eagles have their nest. Mr. Montgomery will look at them. He said the leaves of the black willow have interesting features.

3. Tree Planting Requests

Mr. Montgomery prepared a spread sheet listing trees planted by the Commission. There are 385 trees with the addresses of each in the sheet. He is looking at them to see what trees are doing well. Five varieties of cherry trees are doing extremely well. He wants native tall trees for fall planting. He would like to see the trees that have been planted graded excellent, good or fair, and asked Mr. Cummings for help.

Mr. Cesare is looking forward to planting this fall. The money is set aside. There are 30 requests on the list. Engineering will check the boundary lines. Suggestions should be made for areas other than Spring Glen. Public Works is committed to planting. Mr. Parlapiano asked if he should do a press release. Mr. Montgomery suggested just look around and word of mouth. He mentioned a cherry tree that died from over-watering. Ms. Hoffman asked if the spread sheet is on the Commission's website. Mr. Montgomery said it is not. She asked if the cherries are edible. Mr. Montgomery said the birds and bees like them, but we don't want fruit on the sidewalks. Mr. Montgomery will make some calls to see what kind of trees are available.

4. Educational Outreach

Mr. Parlapiano sent the link to Discover the Forest to Mr. Donnelly to put on our web page. He has not seen it yet. He will resubmit his request.

5. Other Old Business

Mr. Montgomery said he read an article in the New Haven Register stating that United Illuminating gave West Haven \$10,000 to plant trees, and will determine what kinds of trees.

Ms. Nathanson asked if there was any news regarding the solar farm. Mr. Parlapiano wrote to Sue Gruen after the last meeting and has heard nothing new. Ms. Hoffman said the HAT meeting is tomorrow and she plans to ask about it.

There was a question about the Tree Ordinance. Mr. Parlapiano said he received an email from Mr. McDowell who asked Mr. Parlapiano to resend the ordinance to him so he can run it by the town attorney. He has heard nothing new.

Ms. Hoffman mentioned email issues at the government center.

New Business

1. Re-Appointments

Mr. Parlapiano said he and Mr. Cummings are in the reappointment to the Commission process.

2. Other New Business

There was no additional new business.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Parlapiano asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Nathanson so moved. Mr. Cummings seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk