

Fairfield Forestry Committee, Fairfield CT
<http://www.fairfieldct.org/forestry>



Attending Committee Members: Mary Hogue (Chair), Jeff Minder (Tree Warden), Joe File, Geoff Steadman, Tom Corell, Nan Nelson and Misty Beyer.

2018 Meetings and Officers:

Mary Hogue was elected to be Chairman of the Committee for 2018. During 2018 the Committee will hold regular Meetings on the third Tuesday of each month from 9:00 to 10:30 AM.

Electric Utility's Enhanced Tree Trimming (ETT) Program:

Jeff Minder reported that United Illuminating (UI), the electric distribution company that services Fairfield, has been working on the 2017 ETT Program along Stillson Road, North Benson Road and Burr Street. It continues to be the case that almost 90% of recent tree removals have occurred on private property and many of those private property removals were unnecessary and unnecessarily increase the cost of the Program. The Committee will submit a filing with the CT Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to express concern about this inappropriate and unnecessary expansion of the ETT Program as currently implemented by UI. UI has not yet provided the Town with a list of the specific areas of Town, or the number of miles of Town roads, to be covered by its 2018 ETT Program.

Tree Planting Program (TPP):

Tom Corell presented a revised version of the spreadsheet to be used for tracking and recording information relating to applications for trees under the 2018 TPP; and Jeff Minder submitted a list of the varieties of trees he recommended for inclusion in the 2018 TPP. Jeff Minder will develop a final list of trees for 2018 and send a request for bids to selected vendors for the requisite number and variety of trees. In order to increase the effectiveness of the 2018 TPP, the Committee will look into the possibility of identifying specific areas or neighborhoods on which to focus specific attention and ways to do so.

Commemorative Tree Program (CTP):

Nan Nelson is assuming increasing responsibility for the administration of the CTP, Tom Corell will continue initial client contacts related to tree and location selection and Jeff Minder will retain the responsibility for tree planting. Nan Nelson presented a form of Certificate to be presented to the sponsor of a Commemorative Tree, which was approved. There are currently plans for three Commemorative trees in progress – one is to be located at Jennings Beach, one at Veterans Park and the site of the third has not yet been identified.