

## FFC – 1/15/2019

Fairfield Forestry Committee, Fairfield CT

<http://www.fairfieldct.org/forestry>

# Minutes

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

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the November 20, 2018 and the December 12 , 2018 meetings were approved.

**Newsfeed Articles:** The “Tree Damage from Deer Rubbing” article presented by Tom Corell was approved for immediate inclusion onto the Committee’s Website page, submission to local news sources for publication in late summer and delivery to all future participants in the Town’s Tree Planting Program. The next two articles to be created will be about the effects of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer on the Town’s Ash Trees and the plans for the Town’s 2019 Spring Tree Planting Program.

**2019 Goals:** The Committee approved the following to be the list of goals upon which it wishes to focus in the ensuing year:

- Build on and Enhance the Tree Planting Program
- Build on and Enhance the Commemorative Tree Planting Program
- Create a Database for the Tree Planting Programs
- Update the Fairfield Forest Management Plan
- Create an Education & Outreach Plan for the FFC
- Get an Ordinance Passed Regarding Trees on Private Property
- Promote Native over non Native Plants

### Tree Warden Report

#### Electric Utility’s Enhanced Tree Trimming (ETT) Program

United Illuminating (UI), the electric distribution company that services Fairfield, Is currently working along portions of Catamount and Sturgis roads. Although it has completed its tree work along approximately 10 to 15 miles of Town Roads, which is substantially fewer than it’s original 125 miles original proposal as well as it’s ultimately submitted 40 mile proposal. UI has not yet submitted a proposed schedule for its 2018 ETT Program.

UI, is reportedly using the Direct Contact Rule set out in CT Statute 16-234(e) in the Town of Stratford to allow it to make a decision to remove trees under the TPP and Capital Improvement Programs without seeking Town Tree Warden approval. Although UI has not yet attempted to try a similar practice in Fairfield, the Committee will proactively look into the matter.

Power outages in areas of Town in which the ETT Program tree work has been completed over the past several years have had fewer power outages than other areas of Town, verifying that the Program, as limited and applied by the Town, has been effective.

### Other

The Ash Trees in the Town Forest have been severely damaged by Emerald Ash Borers. Approximately 175 Ash Trees will be removed from Town Property this year, many (most?) of them from Town Rights-of-Way. Many others will need to be removed from private property.

### Tree Planting Program (TPP)

#### TPP Analysis

Dave McMahan is continuing to work towards finding an appropriate database system for storing, analyzing and creating reports on the data that has been, and will in the future be, collected with respect to the trees planted under the TPP.

#### 2019 Neighborhood Foci

Tom Corell is attempting to work with residents in the Veres and Tunxis Hill neighborhoods in an attempt to find residents who will help spearhead those areas.

#### 2019 Tree List

Jeff Minder, Tom Corell, Joe File and Mary Hogue will meet later this month to determine the list of trees to be used in the 2019 TPP. The Committee decided, where possible, to prefer native species and cultivars to non-natives, especially for trees that are not planted directly adjacent to roadsides. Jeff Minder, Tom Corell, Mary Hogue and Joe File will meet separately to determine the varieties of trees to be acquired for the 2019 TPP, and Jeff Minder will request bids from nurseries prior to the next Meeting.

**Town of Fairfield Community Forest Management Plan:** Geoff Steadman reported that the Fairfield Forest Management Committee's update of this Plan is to be completed by the end of this calendar year and that the FFC's input will be needed prior to then so that it can be incorporated into the Report. He will review the previous Report and pass on his suggested updates and modifications to the FFC for consideration. The survey that was discussed previously will help to focus on areas that are least understood by the general public.

### Outreach

**Roots to Branches Workshop:** Misty Beyer updated the Committee on the status of this Workshop and possible partners. A final version of the flyer, thanks to input from committee members is forthcoming and will be distributed to as many outlets as possible, again thanks to committee member efforts.

**More Venues for Art Exhibits:** Tabled for future discussion.

**Collaboration with Groundwork Bridgeport:** Tabled for future discussion.

### Other

**Private Property Tree Replacement:** The Committee will continue to look into the possibility of a new Town ordinance dealing with the replacement of trees removed from private property.

Submitted 2/19/19

Joe File