

Attending Committee Members: Mary Hogue (Chair), Jeff Minder (Tree Warden), Joe File, Tom Corell and Dave McMahon. Also present were Karin Layton and Connecticut State Representative Cristin McCarthy Vahey.

Minutes: The Minutes of the February 19, 2018 meetings were approved as submitted.

Tree Warden Report

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

United Illuminating (UI), the electric distribution company that services Fairfield, is still working to complete the unfinished portions of its 2018 ETT Program and has still not yet submitted its proposal for the areas of Town to be included in its 2019 ETT Program.

UI has not yet advised whether it proposes to utilize the Direct Contact provisions of CT Statute 16-234(e) in connection with its 2019 ETT Program in Fairfield. The Committee, based upon the recommendations of Tree Warden Jeff Minder, believes that in situations where branches are in direct contact with Utility wires, UI is permitted to prune such branches only to the minimal extent required to eliminate such contact. Any additional pruning or limb or tree removal thereafter requires posting and Tree Warden approval in accordance with CT General Statute 16-234.

Representative Vahey noted that she will work with the entire Fairfield delegation as well as other legislators to address the problems with wording of the CGS 16-234 lacking specifics on how much trimming may be done to the tree due to direct contact issues. She noted this is a very serious issue and would create a terrible precedent.

Newsfeed Articles: The next newsfeed article will be about the Town's 2019 Spring Tree Planting Program.

Tree Planting Program (TPP)

TPP Analysis

Dave McMahon has identified a PSQL System utilizing the Google iCloud Platform that would be appropriate to use for the Committee's TPP database. He estimates that it will take an additional couple of months of setup and testing before it is ready for use.

2019 Tree List

Jeff Minder has created a list of trees that can be used in the 2019 TPP that includes some of the varieties that were included in the 2018 TPP along with some new varieties for diversity. That list has been sent to several nurseries for bids, which he expects to receive before the next Committee Meeting.

2019 Tree Sales

Tom Corell reported that the Town currently has received approximately 25 requests for trees to be planted in the 2019 TPP. Jeff Minder will create an inventory of all the trees by the end of the week currently held by the Town that can be used, along with any new trees purchased from the 2019 Tree List, for planting this Spring.

2019 Neighborhood Foci

Tom Corell reported that there is little activity in the Veres neighborhood but that he is revamping the program to suit business interests in the Tunxis Hill neighborhood. The approach will be to match a pre-chosen tree with each site and approach the property owner (or business tenant) with that option.

2019 Commemorative Tree Program

Tom Corell reported that there is one Commemorative request in the works.

Tree Survey: The newest version of the Tree Survey will be distributed to the Committee for final review and approval by the Committee at its next meeting and will then be made available to the public so that responses can be collected in time to be incorporated in the this years update of the Town of Fairfield Community Forest Management Plan.

Roots to Branches Workshop: The Workshop will be held at the Fairfield Museum and History Center on Saturday, 4/28 1-4pm. A final copy of the flyer will be sent to the committee and all are asked to help disseminate the information as much as possible.

Submitted 3/19/19

Joe File