

Attending Committee Members: Mary Hogue (Chair), Joe File, Tom Corell and Karin Layton. Also present was Kelsey Powell, a Town resident considering joining the Committee.

Minutes: Consideration of the Minutes of the April 16, 2019 meeting was tabled until the June meeting.

Tree Warden Report: (Given by Mary Hogue, in the Tree Warden's absence)

Electric Utility's Enhanced Tree Trimming (ETT) Program

United Illuminating (UI), the electric distribution company that services Fairfield, does not plan to do work on Fairfield 2019. The Committee continues to be concerned about the possibility that UI will attempt to utilize the "direct contact" provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 16-234(e) to avoid its obligation to obtain prior consent by abutting property owner or obtain a Town Permit before pruning or removing a tree. The Committee will continue to work with the Public Utility Regulatory Authority and the Legislature to the extent necessary to prevent such an outcome. The Committee continues to await receipt of the information previously requested from UI that will enable the Tree Warden to evaluate the effectiveness of the Town's ETT Program to date.

Newsfeed Articles: Kelsey Powell has offered to assist writing future Newsfeed Articles and Karin Layton has volunteered to assist in obtaining wider distribution for them, beyond mere posting on the Town Website.

Tree Planting Program (TPP)

TPP Analysis

Tom Corell reported that Dave McMahon is continuing to work on developing a user-friendly TPP database on a free platform he has previously identified.

2019 Tree Sales

The Spring Tree Sale is proceeding at a planting rate well above that of last year. Many of the tree varieties that we were offering have been sold out. There are not many trees remaining in inventory. As of today, we will be accepting orders only for a Fall planting, for which we expect that the Town will purchase and have available the same selection of trees that were purchased this Spring.

Veres Area Focus

Joe File reported progress in obtaining orders in this area has been slow, but is continuing. Tom Corell reported that money contributed to a "Go-Fund-Me" site by Veres Area residents has been used to purchase two shade trees that will be planted in the Veres Street Park.

Commemorative Trees

Tom Corell reported that three trees have been planted so far this season.

Miscellaneous

It was agreed that the Committee should try to have the TPP program included in the Fairfield Parks & Recreation Department Brochure each year in order to increase awareness of this Program.

Roots to Branches Workshop: This Workshop, sponsored by the Committee, was well attended and well received by a knowledgeable audience thanks primarily to the hard work of Misty Beyer, to whom the Committee owes a huge debt of gratitude. Karin Layton write a report about the Workshop that will be cleared through Misty and the Committee before it is put into final form.

Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP): The survey that the Committee will use to collect data for its update to the CFMP requires additional editing. The Committee anticipates that its revised CFMP to be readable, user-friendly, and completed in time for its content to be included into the upcoming update of the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development.

Submitted 6/18/19

Joe File