



# TOWN OF OLD LYME

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## Old Lyme Tree Commission

**OLD LYME TREE COMMISSION  
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023, 4:00 PM  
MEMORIAL TOWN HALL  
MEETING HALL**

### Minutes

**Attendance:** Regular members: Joanne DiCamillo, Joan Flynn, Michael Gaffey  
Alternate members: Fred Behringer, Peter Edmondson  
Absent: Anne Bing (regular), Emily Griswold (regular), Tom Degnan, Tree Warden, ex-officio  
Guest: Mark Comstock, owner of Hydrangeas Galore in Old Lyme

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. DiCamillo called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. Mrs. DiCamillo asked for motions to authorize Fred Behringer to vote in place of Emily Griswold, and to authorize Peter Edmondson to vote in place of Anne Bing. *Michael Gaffey made a motion, seconded by Joan Flynn, to authorize Fred Behringer to vote in place of Emily Griswold. Joanne DiCamillo, Joan Flynn, and Michael Gaffey voted in favor. Motion passed.*  
*Fred Behringer made a motion, seconded by Michael Gaffey, to authorize Peter Edmondson to vote in place of Anne Bing. Joanne DiCamillo, Joan Flynn, Michael Gaffey, and Fred Behringer voted in favor. Motion passed.*

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The 3/16/23 regular meeting minutes were considered.  
*Fred Behringer made a motion, seconded by Peter Edmondson, to approve the 3/16/23 minutes as presented. Joanne DiCamillo, Joan Flynn, Fred Behringer, and Peter Edmondson voted in favor; Michael Gaffey abstained as he did not attend the meeting on 3/16/23. Motion passed.*

### BUDGET REPORT

Mrs. DiCamillo reported that the Finance Department has not yet provided a budget update for this month.  
The cost for five bundles of fifty seedlings plus a charge for confirmation of the shipping date was \$405. Mrs. DiCamillo also ordered 2,000 brochures with planting instructions at a cost of \$9.95. The brochure order was cancelled due to



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being out of stock and that cost will be refunded, leaving \$45 left for other expenses pertaining to the Arbor Day Seedling event.

### **COMMUNICATIONS** email from Town web site

There was a request on 4-11-2023 from a Lyme Street resident to remove a maple tree on Beckwith Lane. Mrs. DiCamillo forwarded the request to the tree warden and the public works director. It was determined that the tree was not on town property, so the homeowner is removing the tree.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Tree Inventory update**

Fred Behringer handed out a map of Hains Park printed from the Town's GIS system.

GIS maps can be very helpful in organizing a tree inventory. Fred added a list of eight places/parks to start the inventory and marked one of the trees in Hains Park. He asked Peter Edmondson what time of year would be best for performing a tree inventory. Peter replied that trees can be accurately evaluated at any time of year.

#### **Tree watering on Town Green**

Mrs. DiCamillo spoke to the First Selectman about the problem of watering the young trees on the town green and in other places around town. Michael Gaffey watered the trees during the drought last summer using buckets and one of his recycling bins. He would like the town to provide one of the large blue containers to the Tree Commission for that use so that it could be fitted with a faucet or hose hook-up to make watering easier. He requested one last year, but it has not happened.

Mark Comstock spoke about the options for water barrels or buckets that will fit in a pickup truck and can be fitted with a small pump to speed up the process.

Mrs. DiCamillo suggested purchasing one of the containers that Mark mentioned instead of waiting for the town to provide one. She mentioned that the Tree Commission will be responsible for the trees at the Sound View Transportation Hub. The trees in Town Woods Park and on the Town green will also need to be watered. Fred Behringer mentioned that there are extra recycling bins at the transfer station and suggested that Michael should check there.



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### Arbor Day Event April 29

Joanne DiCamillo, Emily Griswold

- Seedling shipping, decide potting date and time:  
The seedlings arrived this afternoon at Joanne DiCamillo's home and appear to be healthy and larger than expected. Joanne will keep them refrigerated until early Tuesday morning when, following the Arbor Day Foundation's instructions, she will unpack and sort the seedlings and soak their roots for 3 hours in water. The members will meet at 10:00 A.M. to pot them at Mark's nursery, Hydrangeas Galore. Potting them will increase the likelihood of success for the seedlings. Mr. Comstock is providing pots and potting soil at no cost to the town.
- Instructions: Mrs. DiCamillo made a copy of the planting instructions and showed it to the members. She can get 250 copies printed for \$39+ from Office Express, or \$37.50 from Staples. The members agreed with Fred Behringer that 150 copies should be more than enough.
- Brochures: Mrs. DiCamillo showed the members a flyer that Emily Griswold and Fred Behringer put together and congratulated them on their wonderful teamwork. She emailed the flyer to the Duck River Garden Club and asked them to send it to their friends and neighbors. Emily will take charge of posting the information around town and on Facebook. The First Selectman will include it in his weekly newsletter with a link to the flyer on the Tree Commission's page on the town's web site.  
Old Lyme residents may select up to three seedlings, one each of a shade, flowering, or evergreen tree. After the event, the members will decide if they would like to donate any of the remaining seedlings to the Open Space Commission. Mark Comstock, also, offered to take the leftovers and raise them at his nursery. This would be especially helpful if the commission decides to hold another Arbor Day seedling event in 2024.
- Publicity: Fred sent the flyer for publishing on LymeLine.com. Michael Gaffey will bring a sign to the event advertising free trees for town residents. Seedlings can be picked up in front of the Town Hall on Saturday, April 29,



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from 10 am to 12 pm. Fred Behringer will provide a table for the planting instructions.

- Ceremony: There may be a small one at 10 am. to talk about the importance of trees and to thank people for helping the commission to plant trees in town.

### NEW BUSINESS

Trees to mulch this season:

Mrs. DiCamillo mentioned that the four trees in Town Woods Park and one tree in Hains Park will need to be mulched this year. This was a project the members took on two years ago. The trees at the Transit Hub will likely become the commission's responsibility this year, as well. She asked the members if they would be willing to mulch again this year. A discussion among the members present indicated that the majority were not in favor of mulching the trees.

*Michael Gaffey made a motion, seconded by Fred Behringer, to invite First Selectman Griswold to the next meeting to discuss support for the Tree Commission. Joanne DiCamillo, Joan Flynn, Michael Gaffey, Peter Edmondson, and Fred Behringer voted in favor. Motion passed.*

*Joan Flynn made a motion, seconded by Peter Edmondson, to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 pm. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.*

**ADJOURNMENT Next regular meeting: May 18, 2023, 4:00 P.M.**

Martha Hansen, Clerk