



TOWN OF OLD LYME

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Old Lyme Tree Commission

THURSDAY, May 18, 2023, 4:00 PM
MEMORIAL TOWN HALL
MEETING HALL

Minutes

Attendance: Regular members: Joanne DiCamillo, Anne Bing, Joan Flynn, Michael Gaffey, Emily Griswold by telephone

Alternate members: Fred Behringer, Peter Edmondson

Absent: Tom Degan, Tree Warden, ex-officio

Guest: First Selectman Tim Griswold

Mr. Griswold left the meeting at 4:45 pm.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. DiCamillo called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The 4/20/23 regular meeting minutes were considered.

Fred Behringer made a motion, seconded by Joan Flynn, to approve the 4/20/23 minutes as presented. Joanne DiCamillo, Joan Flynn, and Michael Gaffey voted in favor. Emily Griswold and Anne Bing abstained as they did not attend the April meeting.

Mrs. DiCamillo asked for a motion to move Tree Maintenance to the first item under Old Business.

Joan Flynn made a motion, seconded by Anne Bing, to move Tree Maintenance to the first item under Old Business. Joanne DiCamillo, Anne Bing, Emily Griswold, Joan Flynn, and Michael Gaffey voted in favor. Motion passed.

Mrs. DiCamillo asked for a motion to add New Business to the Agenda.

Anne Bing made a motion, seconded by Joan Flynn, to add New Business to the Agenda, Joanne DiCamillo, Anne Bing, Emily Griswold, Joan Flynn, and Michael Gaffey voted in favor. Motion passed.

BUDGET REPORT

Mrs. DiCamillo reported the following:

- Budget balances through 4/20/23: Total \$11,241.05; Contracted Services \$7,800; Clerk, \$456, Other/Misc. \$1,385
- Carry-over balance was \$1,600 under Tree/Other
- Invoices: none

Period expenditures: Clerk, \$168, Other/ Misc., Arbor Day Foundation – tree seedlings and brochures \$414.95. \$9.95 was credited back to the town's credit card for the brochure order that was cancelled. It has not been posted on the statement yet.



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OLD BUSINESS

Tree Maintenance: edging, mulching, and clearing weeds, watering.

First Selectman Tim Griswold participated in the discussion.

Fourteen volunteers signed up at the Arbor Day Event to help the commission.

- Town North Green: 3 trees – Mrs. DiCamillo removed the plastic wraps, cut out new edges and weeded around the trees. They need to be lightly mulched and monitored for weed growth.
- Town Woods Park: 3 trees
- Hains Park: 1 tree
- Transit Hub: 4 trees
- Police Station: memorial cherry tree
- Lyme Street: 1 tree
- Ferry Road: 1 tree

Mrs. DiCamillo reported that the beech tree at Town Woods Park appeared to be dead and should be removed. Last summer's drought affected the trees. She weeded and cut out an edge around the oak tree. It was just starting to leaf out and was not mulched. She weeded around the two maple trees and the beech tree and noted they had been mulched.

The Hains Park dogwood tree has not been mulched and weeds have filled in at the base of the tree. A local resident donated the tree. She asked Mr. Griswold about a beautification effort at the park. He stated that funds were donated for making improvements, not necessarily landscaping.

Fred Behringer told Mr. Griswold that Public Works had delivered a load of mulch to the park recently and asked if they could deliver mulch for the Tree Commission's use. The last time the members mulched trees, he purchased the mulch and picked it up. Mr. Griswold replied that the mulch is usually picked up in a dump truck and it may not work well for individual trees to have it dumped in a big pile somewhere.

The Transit Hub trees will soon become the responsibility of the Tree Commission. At Mr. Griswold's request, Mrs. DiCamillo recently examined the three maple trees. They appear to be healthy. She reported that one of them was tied to a stake in the ground. It was mentioned in the committee's minutes that the tree was leaning after it was planted, a sign that it was not planted correctly. She asked Mr. Griswold to advise the committee to make certain that the tree is straight before transferring the responsibility to the commission. She also asked if it would be possible for Public Works to mulch the trees. The Transit Hub tree mulching could be included with the maintenance of the 9-11 Memorial Tree at the Police Station.

Michael Gaffey asked for two of the blue recycling containers, stored at the Transfer Station, which would help with watering the trees. He explained that he could hook up hoses and a



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pump to each of them that would help with transporting them more easily. Mr. Griswold will inquire about the containers and make the arrangements.

Mrs. DiCamillo reported that a representative from Point One Architects contacted her about moving, transplanting, or replacing the two dogwood trees and a cherry tree growing in front of the Senior Center. The entrance to the building will be redesigned. The trees were donated, when the Senior Center opened in 1995, by the Duck River and the Lyme Garden Clubs. Mrs. DiCamillo reached out to the DRGC President and will contact The Lyme Garden Club.

Arbor Day Event: review

- Everything went very well, better than expected, and all seedlings were distributed by 11:10. The LymeLine.com publicity, Emily Griswold's flier distribution and social media postings were highly effective and created lots of enthusiasm. Although the weather that morning was very cold, with wind and rain, the residents started lining up at 9:45. Emily brought pop-up tents for shelter and Joanne DiCamillo supplied a table for the planting instructions. Michael Gaffey made a sign. Joanne brought a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help with tree maintenance. Fourteen people volunteered. Because of the foul weather, the members quickly cleaned up and left the site earlier than advertised. Unfortunately, several folks were turned away.
- Considering the enthusiasm generated this year, Mrs. DiCamillo suggested planning for an event next year and adding more seedlings to the order. Michael Gaffey would like to order trees that will help to sequester more carbon and proposed the ironwood tree.
- Mrs. DiCamillo suggested that most people are not familiar with an ironwood tree. In her opinion, the reason for the success of the event this year is the fact that people recognized the types of trees we selected and wanted to plant native. The flowering trees were the most popular, the white dogwood was the first choice, the red bud, then the spruce, with the shade trees last. The commission's goal to beautify, attract pollinators and wildlife as well as provide shade, was well received. Fred Behringer stated that he agreed with adding the ironwood tree. Peter Edmondson recommended a white oak which is the CT State Tree.
- Following the Arbor Day Event, Mrs. DiCamillo spoke with Mark Comstock about his proposal to grow trees for the Tree Commission at his nursery. There are elements of the project that should be discussed and settled before a final decision can be made. She will speak with Mr. Griswold.

Tree Inventory: Fred Behringer reported on his progress with the Old Lyme Tree Inventory draft plan. He showed an example of mapping the trees in Hains park using screen capture from



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the GIS on the town's web site. The information can be stored in Excel and/or Google. Fred plans to make a simple map of each area and mark the location of the trees. Michael Gaffey will be working individually in the field. There are eight initial survey locations. The trees will be evaluated and the data including date, location, species, condition, size, diameter, location, comments/notes like "dead limbs" will be collected. Fred Behringer plans to make a simple map of each area and mark the location of the trees.

NEW BUSINESS

Communications: town's web site

5/1: A Four Mile River Road resident reported a dead tree along the road. Mrs. DiCamillo forwarded the email to the tree warden and Public Works and copied the resident on the email.

ADJOURNMENT

Joan Flynn made a motion, seconded by Anne Bing, to adjourn the meeting at 5:23 pm. *Joanne DiCamillo, Anne Bing, Emily Griswold, Joan Flynn, and Michael Gaffey voted in favor. Motion passed.*

Next regular meeting: June 15, 2023, 4:00 P.M.

**Respectfully submitted,
Martha Hansen, Clerk**