

## **Minutes**

### **Middletown Tree Commission**

**March 28, 2013**

**Attending: Paul LaMond, BJ Northup-Owen, Karen Day, Bob Johnson, Alan Kirby, Bill DiMarco**

#### **Finances:**

- **We will request \$7500 from the Town for the next fiscal year.**
- **We have applied for a Rhode Island Foundation Grant to purchase larger caliper trees for the Town Center. If we receive the grant, we will purchase various species to see which species work best in our environment.**
- **We have not, as yet, received the check from the America-the-Beautiful grant. We have made calls but have not yet gotten a reply.**
- **The Island Drive Homeowners' Association will be paying us \$1500, their share of the cost of planting 7 trees. We will also pay \$1500.**
- **We will have approximately \$24,000 for the 2013 programs.**

#### **Old Business:**

- **Samuel Kinder & Brother will contact Alan about identifying the 15 trees in Spruce Avenue neighborhood that require the most maintenance.**
- **Tree Planting locations for this year were discussed. We will plant**

**the following:**

- o 6 trees on the Wyndham Hill area (perhaps red maple, pin oak, and Princeton elm).**
- o 7 on Island Drive (red maple, pin oak, and Princeton elm were planted).**
- o 2 trees on Circle Drive (perhaps maples).**
- o Other potential locations include Champlin Place (Alan will look at the area for species suggestions); 223 Oliphant where a tree had been removed; the front area of Sears; and 18, 22, 25, 37, 54, 57, 66, and 114 West View.**
- o BJ mentioned that many trees on Forest Avenue are distressed and may need to be removed and replaced in the near future.**

**New Business:**

- Our Tree Planting Incentive was discussed. Paul pointed out there was a tremendous amount of tree damage this year with Hurricane Sandy and the snowstorm in February. Perhaps for this year only, we should change our procedures and include evergreen trees in our \$50 discount for Middletown residents. Also, instead of giving a \$50 discount for one tree, we could give a \$50 discount per residence. This would allow the Middletown resident to purchase more than 1 tree and the \$50 would be applied to the total bill. The members agreed. We then discussed how we could publize this incentive program. It was suggested we use the Newport Daily News, Middletown Patch, Newport this Week, the Town website, and Will Cronin, the recycle coordinator. Bill agreed to write a potential news**

**release.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Karen Day, Secretary**