

## **Minutes**

### **Middletown Tree Commission**

**January 9, 2014**

**Attending: Paul LaMond, Chuck DiTucci, Bob Johnson, Bill DiMarco, BJ Northup-Owen, Tom O'Loughlin, and Karen Day**

#### **Finances:**

- **Currently we have \$22, 769 in our account.**
- **We applied for \$3500 from the America-the-Beautiful grant and we should hear by the end of January.**

#### **Old Business:**

- **156 trees were purchased with our Tree Planting Incentive Program. We spent \$7500 with \$4000 of it coming from our van Beuren Charitable Trust grant. If the popularity continues, we may have to limit the number of trees or have a cut off date.**
- **Paul announced that he and Karen will be reappointed to the Commission by the Town Council.**
- **Paul said after Bill mentioned the removal of some large trees on Indian Avenue that appeared to be public trees, Alan investigated and found the trees to be on private land so we have no recourse.**
- **We reviewed the new plans for the Aquidneck Highland Development on Green End Ave. They include juniper, Douglas fir, and rhododendron. They are leaving several larger trees on the property. The Commission had no concerns about the landscape**

plans.

- **Bill has been in contact with the IT person for the Town about creating our own page on the Town website. We will include pictures of trees taken by Jim Nash and information about the mission of the Tree Commission. Bill will meet with him about how to add the page and maintain it.**
- **Bill updated us on the Tree Data Base project. He will be meeting with John Campinetti about the possible purchase of the software.**

### **New Business:**

- **We began the discussion of our maintenance program. The van Beuren Trust awarded us \$4000. Paul asked for suggestions of locations that members of the Commission may have of trees that need attention. One suggestion was trees on Wyatt Road, near Gaudet Middle School. They might benefit from pruning. Members are asked to bring location ideas to our next meeting.**
- **We also discussed our tree planting program. It was suggested that we purchase trees from Hoogendoorn Nurseries and have local contractors plant them for us. As a non-profit, we can buy trees at wholesale prices and we could support local businesses like Hoogendoorn and local landscapers. The members agreed with this strategy.**
- **Tom has a list of the trees removed this year and will share this list with the Commission. Some of the trees probably should not be replaced because of the locations but others could be part of our planting program.**

- **Bob shared that the DEM contacted the Conservation Commission about help with a tree survey. After researching it, he thinks it is a survey to find trees infested with the Asian Longhorned Beetle. There will be training in June and July with the survey in August, if anyone would like to participate.**
- **Paul asked if there was anyone else on our Commission who would like to serve on the Committee that has been formed to plan the new athletic fields on East Main Road. There will be a meeting on January 22 at the Police Station.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Day, Secretary**