

Middletown Tree Commission

Minutes

February 27, 2014

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

Finances:

- We currently have approximately \$22,000 in our account.**
- We reviewed the actual budget from 2013 and the proposed budget for 2014**
- We were awarded a \$2,000 America the Beautiful grant from DEM with a matching \$3,000. This is a little less than we requested but it should not have much impact on our planting plans this year.**

Old Business

- We received one bid for our maintenance work from Samuel Kinder & Brother from Bristol so the work will be awarded to them. It was decided to do the work on the Pin Oak at Oliphant School, the 10 Honeylocust on the west side of Valley Road, feed the Hornbeam on Wyatt Road and do moderate thinning on 12 Lindens on Meadow Lane. This will cost (with the cost of the ad in the local paper) approximately \$5,600 which is approximately \$600 over budget. We will adjust with money from other programs as the year progresses. Other locations that have been identified as needing maintenance will be addressed next year.**

- It was decided that we can plant approximately 20 trees this year. We will replace the broken gingko on East Main Road with a zelkova and then concentrate our planting in the Coggeshall Way/Coggeshall Circle neighborhood and the Golden Rod Drive neighborhood. Alan will review the locations and make suggestions for species.
- As we had little response to our ad requesting bids for maintenance, it was decided to mail or email requests directly to vendors who may have an interest. We may put a small ad in the paper but everyone will be directed to the webpage for more specific information. In this way, we hope we can have a greater response and save money. Alan has checked to see if the RI Nursery and Landscape Association will allow us to advertise on their website but did not get a response. He will try again.
- Alan suggested at the last meeting a letter be written that could be sent to homeowners of properties that have been identified as possible planting locations to share information and allow them to share concerns. Karen wrote a possible letter to be used and shared it with the group. Bob suggested we add information to emphasize the planting will be done on public property and it was done.
- Bill shared his work on the webpage that he has created which is linked to the Town website. He has included a history of the Tree Commission, links to minutes, proposal requests, information on tree planting, and some pictures of trees. It is a work in progress and he is waiting for some additional information from the IT person and will continue to add information. We will use this webpage for specific information about our planting programs bid requests.

New Business:

- There was discussion of stump removal in Town. Tom is trying to create a list of stumps that need to be removed and asked members to email him with locations. Bob said there are several in the Wyndham Hill area and he will email Tom to add them to the list.
- Karen asked if we could move the March meeting to the 28th as she will be out of town on Thursday. It was agreed and she will make sure the library is available.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Day Acting Chair.