

Middletown Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

For the October 29, 2015 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Karen Day at 3:00 in the Middletown Library Conference Room.

Those attending were: Karen Day, Bill DiMarco, Alan Kirby, BJ Northup-Owen, Bob Johnson, and Chuck DiTucci .

Finances:

- There is approximately \$18,500 in the checking account.
 - Not included is a DEM check for \$2000 just received for America the Beautiful grant.
 - Future monies from this program are in doubt

1. Old Business:

- Tree planting
 - As of 10/22, 79 trees were purchased under the tree incentive program.
 - It appears that we have more than enough resident approved locations for next year.
- Town Center
 - A meeting was held with DEM and the Town, and verbal OK was given to the walkway construction as planned. There may be some minor modifications. This could happen this year
 - The Conservation commission has requested an entrance on High Street behind the hotel.

- Trees illegally removed on Valley Road by Keller Williams, RE.
 - Another memo has been provided to the Town manager and the town planner documenting the issue in detail.
 - Subsequently, more information on the original request was asked for by the Town's attorney.
 - It was decided to ask Tom O'Loughlin if he had such information.
 - At the Municipal court hearing on 10/20, the defendant pleaded not guilty and a trial was set by Judge Silva for 12/1/15.
- Signature Beech Tree on Prescott Ave in front of Proposed Development
 - Karen had previously made a presentation to the planning board regarding this tree. BJ said it was well received.
 - We had a request to review the developer's plans for protecting the tree. They were provided by The Tree Doctor, Warren RI. We reviewed these plans at this meeting.
 - Resulting recommendations provided by the Commission led by Alan Kirby included;
 - That there was no need to trim the tree at all.
 - If they have to dig near the tree, it was recommended that they dig in radial directions away from the tree so as to minimize the damage to the roots.
 - WRT "Soli Enhancements"; fertilizing the tree is not a good idea as it may burn the exposed/cut roots.
 - Vehicles should be prevented from driving over or parking on the tree roots by erecting a barrier fence 5 feet outside the drip line of the tree
 - Alan Kirby, the Town Tree Warden, agreed to work with the developer's representative.

- Sidewalks were mentioned in the plans. We assume that they would not be on the tree side of the road
- A memo documenting our recommendations was to be sent to the town planner by Karen after the meeting.
- The owner of the property occupied by the tree has been in contact with Karen to express his concerns.

2. New business

- A landscaping plan for the property “Middletown Commons” at 850 Aquidneck Ave was reviewed as requested by the Ron, the Town Planner.
 - The plan was for the addition of 49 parking places in the rear of the building.
 - The plan indicated that the town would require an additional 41 trees but 16 were planned as shown.
 - It was agreed that attendees visit the site and make recommendation by email to Karen who would then forward them to Ron.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:15

Respectfully submitted,

Bill DiMarco, Secretary