

# Middletown Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

For the January 28, 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, Chuck DiTucci, Alan Kirby, Bob Johnson, BJ Northup-Owen and Ron Wolaski.

## 1. Finances:

- There is approximately \$27,900 in the checking account.

This includes \$1,750 which is the first installment of the fine to be paid to the Town by Keller Williams.

- Karen submitted a grant request for \$8,000 to the van Buren Charitable Foundation for tree maintenance and the tree planting incentive program for 2017.
- A request to the town for \$7,500 has been made for the FY 2017 budget which begins in July.

## 2. Old Business:

- Thanks to Ron, we now have a mailbox at the town hall
- Public Tree Removal or Pruning Request Process
  - It was decided to allow the commission 45 days to act on a request
  - Some very minor tweaks were made to the form
  - An overview paragraph for the website was approved
  - Still undecided is the makeup of the appeal committee
  - It was decided to run the process by Shawn before putting it on the website. A discussion ensued on tree ordinance enforcement issues

- Alan suggested that, as part of the landscape approval process, the developer should be required to properly maintain the trees during their lifetime.
  - He cited the terrible pruning job done at the “Barnes and Noble retail center” causing some of the trees to be in danger.
- Karen will talk to the town solicitor with regard to ordinance enforcement issues.
- Bids were received for tree maintenance from Sam Kinder and North-Eastern Tree Services. Due to some confusion WRT to one of the bids, Karen will contact the bidder for clarification.
- Karen met with Scott Wheeler about tree surveys. He did not recommend a comprehensive survey, but preferred informal inspections.
- The list of trees and locations for this year’s planting was reviewed.

## 2. New business

- Karen had a request for the Commission to be involved with an Arbor day celebration with Gaudet Middle School and the Richard Taylor Environmental club. We discussed what that would entail. No decision was made.
- Chuck brought up the planned Founders’ Day celebration by the Middletown Historical society on August 20. He suggested that perhaps the Commission would like to be involved.
- Next Meeting is on February 25.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:30

Respectfully submitted,

Bill DiMarco, Secretary