

# Middletown Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

For the May 26, 2016 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 and Rob Schultz from the City Of Newport.

## 1. Finances:

There is approximately \$24,740 in the checking account.

- Does include the final installment of the imposed tree cutting fine
- Check to TJ Brown for planting 2 Redpointe Maples (\$1990) has not cleared yet.

## 2. Old Business:

- Tree Planting for this year
  - No news yet from Sam Kinder on this year's planting effort.
- Tree Incentive program has funded 16 trees as of the meeting date.
- We were awarded \$8000 from the van Buren Charitable Foundation for 2017 tree planting and maintenance. They want more maintenance details in our grant proposal next year.
- Karen contacted Charlie Silvia of the former Newport Horticultural Society, WRT their proposed gift to the Tree Commission of \$5,700. She informed him of the progress on the Town center property, and our intention of providing a plaque of some sort denoting the gift.
- Recommended trees for the proposed TD Bank building on East Main Road will be planted after State DOT road construction project is completed per DOT request.

## 3. New business

- Rob Schultz, representing the City of Newport, informed us of a DEM ruling that several mature trees on Hanging Rock Road, bordering the City's reservoir, will have to be cut down.
  - DEM claims that they represent a danger to the earthen dam surrounding the reservoir
  - According to Warren Hall, town engineer, the trees are on Middletown property, thus this meeting with our tree commission.
  - We approved the request.
    - Karen took an action item to issue a letter to the Newport water department in that regard.
- We reviewed landscape development plans for 52 Wave Ave/74 Aquidneck Ave with no objections.
- We reviewed landscape development plans for 259 Tuckerman Ave. The owner wants to plant trees on Town property. It was decided to table the review.
- **Future Meeting Times. It was decided to change the meeting times to 4:00 for all future meetings.** There may be one or two months when this will be a problem WRT reservations at the library. The commission will be informed.
- This issue of spraying for winter moths was brought up.
  - Difficult to find someone to do it
  - In the future, we could have many trees with a problem.
  - Alan suggested that maybe the town should invest in a sprayer and train someone to be licensed to spray
- An updated spread sheet that documents the projects we have reviewed since 2013 has been updated and is presented below.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:00

Respectfully submitted,

Bill DiMarco, Secretary

## Middletown Tree Commission Planning Review Projects

Project	Date	Location	Recommendation	Status	Notes
<b>Aquidneck Highlands (Julia Court)</b>	4/24/2013	Off Green End Ave. near the Polo Center.	The forested area on the side of the property bordering Green End should remain and only trees that are diseased or dead should be removed.	Completed	Agreement was reached with the developer.
<b>Gallipeau Property</b>	2/1/2014	At the end of Sachuest Way.	none	Open	
<b>Seaview Property</b>	4/1/2014	Industrial Park	none	Construction begun.	
<b>Sea Breeze (Telly's)</b>	9/1/2014	Corner of Aquidneck Ave and Newport Ave.	Sign should be moved to avoid the removal of trees.	Construction begun	
<b>St. George's School</b>	4/25/2014	Campus property	none	Construction begun	
<b>Cumberland Farms</b>	4/4/2015	Aquidneck Avenue	Add 3 maples on Aquidneck Ave. side and add 1 tree filter with an ornamental tree instead of Rhododendron	Open	Property owner was given our recommendations. New landscaping plan has not been submitted
<b>TD Bank</b>	4/4/2015	West Main Rd.	none	Open	
<b>Hobby Shop/Hart St.</b>	8/27/2015	West Main Rd. (parking lot in rear)	Add 2-3 small ornamental trees along West Main Rd. side	Construction has begun.	Property owner was given recommendations but were not included in permits because it was not on Hart St. State construction in the area is pending.
<b>850 Aquidneck Ave./Middletown Commons</b>	10/29/2015	850 Aquidneck Ave. (parking lot in rear)	Addition of 3 trees, 1 in a grass area beside the building and 2 along the border of the neighboring business.		Landlord's landscaper agreed. Christopher Manchester, Tupelo Gardenworks, Ltd. 401-294-9678. Will plant 2 American elm and 1 Yoshino Cherry.
<b>142 Prospect Avenue</b>	10/29/2015	Polo grounds behind 142 Prospect Ave.	Large beech tree along the proposed entrance.	Open	Developer's arborist, Tree Doctor agreed to work with Tree Warden during the construction.
<b>KellerWilliams Offices Valley Road</b>	9/1/2015	47 Valley Road	Tree Ordinance was violated, Litigation proceeded	Fine paid.	Property owner pled guilty and was fined \$3500. Fine would be given to the Tree Commission for tree planting
<b>Middlecreek Farms</b>	2/26/2016	Middletown/Portsmouth town line	none	Open	
<b>BankRI</b>	5/5/2016	132 East Main Road	Kwanzan cherry on the Rego Road corner of the property be replaced with either an October Glory maple or Columnar Sargent cherry. We would like trees added to the green space in front. DOT construction will begin soon. Would like them added when completed.	Open	The Planning Board has not yet reviewed the plans. We would like trees added in the green space along East Main Rd. Once construction completed, possible include them.
<b>2 Mile Corner</b>	5/16	Extensive reconfiguring of Coddington Highway and East Main Road.	Great deal of foliage removed for construction. Want to see replacement when completed, including more trees.	Open	Have not seen any landscape plans as of 5/5/2016
<b>62 Wave Avenue</b>	5/26/2016	62 Wave Ave on the corner of Aquidneck Ave.	Building a new commercial building, adding 3 trees and shrubs. We have no concerns	Open	
<b>Water Department Gardner Pond</b>	5/26/2016	Along Hanging Rock Rod. Tree removal violation from DEM	Agreed with the removal of the trees to keep the dams stable	Open	DEM had sent a violation notice to Newport Water Dept. that vegetation was not allowed near the dams.
<b>259 Tuckerman Ave.</b>	5/26/2016	259 Tuckerman Ave. at the corner on Tuckerman Terrace.	No final decision	Continued	The homeowner wants to plant trees in the public right-of-way at his cost and he will continue to maintain them.
<b>Sandpiper Cottages</b>	5/26/2016	Former Sandpiper Cottages across from Oliphant Ln.	No plan received.	Construction has begun (4/2016). No plans submitted. Trees removed.	Landscape plans for project were shared in 2011. 4/2016 new plans (not formalized) were shared but not reviewed as we were told there would be a new, more formalized plan. None was of 6/8/16.

