

Middletown Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

For the July 26, 2016 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Karen Day at 4:00 in the smaller Middletown Library Conference Room.

Those attending were: Karen Day, Bill DiMarco, Tom O'Loughlin, BJ Northrup-Owens, Alan Kirby, Peter Regan (Town Solicitor) and Charlie Silvia .

1. Finances:

There is approximately \$8,700 in the checking account.

- All major invoices have been paid
- The Town did award us \$7.5 k for the coming year. We have not received it.

2. Old Business:

- The Tree Incentive program has funded 73 trees as of the meeting date.
- 110 Sachuest Way Tree Removal Request
 - Since the past meeting, Alan sent a registered letter to the home owner denying him the permission to remove the oak tree that is on town property. This letter was reviewed and agreed to by several tree commission members before it was sent.
 - The property owner intends to build a new house that requires a new driveway. He claims that this oak tree is in his way.
 - It is clear that the owner has other alternative locations for his driveway that will not require the removal of a town tree, but may require the removal of one of his trees that are not in good condition.
 - Town solicitor, Peter Regan upon reviewing the tree ordinance, confers with our assessment that the property owner needs a permit

to cut down said tree. He said that the building permit for his new house does not give him that right.

- Peter took an action item to get in touch the town building inspector wrt to this decision.

3. New business

- Peter Regan reviewed the Town Ordinance wrt removal or modification of Trees on town property.
 - He suggests that we create a set of rules and regulations. This would not be part of the ordinance but an accompanying document, basically formalizing Alan's process when he acts upon a request. He suggested that we may be able to find an existing one to help us.
 - Bill took an action item to contact John Campanini regarding this issue.
- We discussed with Peter the problems we have with developers that do not maintain the elements of the landscape plan that was approved when they were given the permit to build
 - Peter said he would like to think about this, but he brought up the idea of an environmental easement that would be similar to other town easements that are given for other issues when a permit is issued.
- We discussed with Peter the problems we have we being informed ex post facto on some cases of landscaping issues.
 - A checklist for the building inspector may help.
- At 216 Gossets Turn Drive, a tree died. This tree was planted by the developer on private property, but it was intended to be a public tree and planted there due to location issues. We have agreed to replace it if the home owner removes the dead tree
- We reviewed landscape development plans for the East Island Reserve Development (former Sandpiper). The Commission approved the plans with no objections.

- Bill took an action item to forward to Peter an ordinance change we requested several years ago, but was never acted upon.
- Bill took an action item to activate the webpage that contains our policy for modifying a tree on public property, and a request form for requesting permission to do so..
- Karen has started a list of maintenance sites for next year. Demory Park is the only site on the list as of this date.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:30

Respectfully submitted,

Bill DiMarco, Secretary