

Minutes Middletown Tree Commission

Meeting Date: February 22, 2018

Location: Middletown Public Library conference room

Time: 4:00 PM

Attending: Karen Day, Tom O'Loughlin, Bob Johnson, Chuck DiTucci, and John Bollard, Middletown Rotary

Items Discussed (Votes taken will be noted at the end of each item discussion):

1. Finances were reviewed. Currently \$41,701.91 in accounts.

Action taken: Accepted

2. Street planting was discussed. It was decided to replace trees at 27 Paquin Pl., 3 trees for the HOA at Island Drive (1/2 will be paid for

by HOA), and 2 trees on Wyndham Hill. All locations had trees that had been damaged and/or removed.

Action taken: As sunset maples were requested for both Island Dr. and Wyndham Hill, it was decided to go out to bid for 7 sunset maples to be planted. The Department of Public Works will pay for the trees to honor the agreement made after a tree was removed previously for a drainage project. Karen will send out the bid request and the bids will be reviewed at the next meet meeting.

3. Maintenance bid requests were discussed. Currently we have 2 projects planned, on Pasture Farm Road and Busher Drive.

Action: Karen will check to see if there are other projects which need attention and the bid request will be sent out with the street planting bid requests and will be reviewed at the next meeting.

4. Tree City designation: Karen has contacted the Town Council about our desire for Tree City designation. They have agreed to create a Proclamation in support of Arbor Day and will present the proclamation to members of the Tree Commission on April 16, 2018 in honor of Arbor Day.

Action: This will satisfy all the requirements for Tree City status and Karen will apply for 2018 in the Fall.

5. Dog Waste: Dog waste continues to be problem in Valley Park (and other areas). A note was left on a stone at the entrance of the park requesting people not leave waste bags on the side of the trail.

Action: Karen shared pictures of the note and waste bags along the trail which she shared with the Chair of the Dog Waste sub-committee of the Open Space and Fields.

6. John Bollard of the Middletown Rotary attended and announced the Rotary International has declared this the “Year of the Tree” and the Middletown Rotary would like to become involved with the Commission, with financial and other support. He was searching for areas with which they can assist.

Action: The Commission welcomed him and the support of the Rotary. He or another representative will be attending our meetings in the future to determine the most pressing needs.

7. Bids for Phase Two of planting in Valley Park were opened. Three were received.

- Central Nurseries (Johnston, RI) - \$125,671**
- Atlantic Lawn and Garden (Jamestown, RI) - \$129,550**
- Boulevard Nurseries (Middletown, RI) - \$116,455**

Action: The bid was awarded to Boulevard Nurseries. As the bids were all higher than the amount budgeted, adjustments will need to be made in species and/or numbers. A special meeting may be scheduled to discuss how best to proceed.

8. Please note a change in the next meeting date: It will be on April 5th at the library at 4:00 PM. The March 29th meeting canceled.

Submitted by:

Karen Day, Chairperson