

Westport Tree Board, July 17, 2019

Attendees: Dick Fincher, Bruce Lindsay, Dick Stein, Peter Kohlbrenner, Ed Picard, Monica Buesser

Westport Tree Ordinance

Assistant Town Attorney, Eileen Lavigne Flug, was present at beginning of meeting. She stated that the Tree Protection Ordinance was being reviewed. Review was approximately half complete. Current state statute covers same material, but this would codify it in Westport and restate Tree Warden and Tree Board responsibilities. Dick Fincher is responding to RTM questionnaire about ordinance. It was noted that several other communities have this ordinance and that it would allow the Tree Board to apply for Tree City USA status which may make applying for grants more successful. Bruce Lindsay stated it would give him more enforcement capability within the town. Dick Stein suggested that he would like future ordinance to include requiring site plan review for any major commercial renovation, even if use does not change. This will be taken up with Planning and Zoning.

Approval of Minutes 6/19/19

Tree Warden Report

Micro burst caused considerable tree damage, mostly Compo area, working to clean up.

Tree Preservation – 280 Compo Road South, Notable Tree, tree is being preserved, but there is work that must be done on very old storm drains close or under tree. Engineering will be involved in preservation effort – said to dig to dripline of tree and stop. Soil remediation done and fencing will be put around tree.

Myrtle Ave/Church Lane – Red maple, it may be preserved but not in best shape

Stonybrook – tree taken down was Ash tree

Planning & Zoning Report

Dick Stein reported that Daybreak Apartment 500 Main – did not want to plant trees on fence line because of existing trees. They must plant as requested.

Notable Trees -

PUB Application – For all grants we must apply as Town of Westport Tree Board. Need Ein#, will talk to Jen Fava, will apply to make ADA compliant trail at LWA

Bedford - Westport/Weston YMCA – cannot apply as Westport Evergreen

LWA Signage – Highway Dept, Public Works, Pete Rakowich, maybe combine Earthplace and LWA signs

Fall Volunteers at LWA – Gault dig trench for water line?

Other Business –

Dick Stein reviewed state plans for Post Road improvements around Stop & Shop, Fresh Market, McDonalds. They are at Phase 1 and planning on removing many of the trees near Stop & Shop. We would like to meet with the state and discuss plans.

LWA – Bruce Lindsay has spoken with Landscape architect Aris Stalis about a plan for the arboretum. Deer will be a problem. Plan would address need for protection for trees and planting deer resistant plants.

New contract for Bruce Lindsay has been signed till 2021

Guest Comment:

Pam Klomberg: Went to Fairfield Tree Committee meeting. DEEP official was at meeting. Would like to collaborate with Westport in ways that make sense.