

DRAFT Minutes
Ridgefield Tree Committee
April 26, 2025
10 a.m.

Ballard Park Gazebo

**This is a Summary of the Activities of the Committee
and not a verbatim transcript**

In attendance on a chilly, drizzly morning:

Tree Warden: Steve Lavatori. Members: Tom McManus (Chair), Ryan Bossis, Ian Dow, Don Hulnick, Bob Roth, Paul Shotton, Kitsey Snow.

Guest Speaker: David Beers, Service Forester (Western District) Private and Municipal Lands Program; Division of Forestry, Bureau of Natural Resources, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

Opening Comments

Mr. McManus welcomed Mr. Beers, members of the community, our Ridgefield Tree Warden, and Committee members to what will be an annual event to celebrate Arbor Day.

Tree City

Mr. McManus relayed the news that Ridgefield was again recognized as a Tree City by the Arbor Day Foundation, and that new signs had been purchased and installed. He mentioned that the Committee should continue to be responsible for renewing the application each year; an annual Arbor Day celebration is an important requirement. Fewer than 25 of Connecticut's 169 municipalities are recognized as "Tree Cities."

Engagement with the Community

Mr. McManus shared news about the expanding Tree Committee page on the Town of Ridgefield website which contains useful information for residents about tree care and safety, including how best to contact **Eversource** (*re: trees that pose threats to utility wires and other equipment*), the **Connecticut Department of Transportation** (*trees along state highways*) and the **Ridgefield Town Tree Warden** (*trees along town roads and other town property*).

Mr. McManus invited attendees who use Facebook to join the "Ridgefield, CT Trees" group with currently over 230 members, terrific photography and several posts each day. He reminded members and attendees that Committee members are dedicated to expand their knowledge about trees to use that knowledge in supporting the Tree Warden, and to share that knowledge with the community.

Mr. Beers of the Forestry Division of DEEP congratulated the Town on once again attaining Tree City recognition and mentioned several ways that CT-DEEP can help support community efforts to protect existing trees and expand its tree canopy over time.

Ms. Snow joined the meeting pulling a wagon filled with small gifts for attendees of one of two species: *Cornus amomum* (Silky dogwood, which grows to a medium to large shrub) and *Liquidambar styraciflua* (Sweetgum tree, which can eventually grow to 80 feet tall with a canopy spread of 60 feet. Some of these were delivered to residents who were not able to attend.

Adjournment

UPON motion duly made (Roth), seconded (Bossis), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned at 10:30 A.M. Motion passed: 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom McManus, Chair