

**APPROVED MINUTES
Ridgefield Tree Committee
November 4, 2024
6:35 p.m.**

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

In attendance:

Members: Tom McManus (Chair), Robert Roth, Ryan Bossis, Paul Shotton; Anthony Tufariello; Don Hulnick, Kitsey Snow (arrived 6:50 p.m.). Tree Warden: Steve Lavatori.

Tree Warden's Report

Mr. Lavatori reported that calls from residents are still coming in, and necessary tree work is being accomplished. He hopes to "hit pause" for a week or two with tree contractor, after accomplishing priority work. His office computer has been repaired and returned after 2 weeks; allowing him to catch up on record-keeping.

Approval of Minutes of Past Meetings

Mr. McManus referred to the draft minutes of the meeting of the Committee on October 7 that had been provided to the members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Shotton moved, and Mr. Bossis seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the October 7 meeting. Motion passed: 5-0-1, with Mr. Roth abstaining.

Finances

Reminder: private donations in 2023 for Main Street Tree Planting amounted to \$27,100. We paid Sav-a-Tree \$2,950 in 2023 for a tree inventory of Main Street. So far this calendar year, we paid \$5,810 for 16 trees plus \$5,105 for planting them in mid-June. Stump removal along Main Street will facilitate more planting, hopefully this year. We received another \$2,500 donation in July 2024. Rotary Club has informed us that they have resources for additional tree planting.

Communicating about trees with residents via Newsletter

Mr. Shotton proposed a plan to publish a virtual newsletter focused on tree health in March 2025. Distribution would be via the Tree Committee page on the Town website, various Facebook groups, and the email list utilized by the Conservation Commission. Ms. Snow mentioned that permission to use that email list had previously not been approved, and (at least) would require additional work to achieve.

Oak Tree Problems

Ms. Snow (Oak wilt) and Mr. Shotton (Sudden Oak Death) discussed current problems affecting Oak trees. The Chair suggested planting more Oak varieties that are less likely to be affected.

Tree Committee Meeting Schedule for 2025

Mr. McManus moved, Mr. Shotton seconded, and it was RESOLVED that there be an OUTDOOR meeting of the Committee at Ballard Park on Saturday April 26 (to celebrate Arbor Day). Motion passed: 6-0-1, with Mr. Tufariello abstaining.

Ms. Snow moved, Mr. Bossis seconded, and it was RESOLVED that the REGULAR meetings of the Committee in 2025 be held on the SECOND Tuesday of EACH month (except JULY and DECEMBER, when no meeting will occur) and also except NOVEMBER, when the regular meeting will occur on Wednesday November 12. Motion passed: 6-0-1, with Mr. Tufariello abstaining.

Adjournment

UPON motion duly made (Roth), seconded (Bossis), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourn at 7:35 P.M. Vote: Yes-7, No-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom McManus, Chair