

**DRAFT Minutes
Ridgefield Tree Committee
October 14, 2025
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), Ian Dow, Paul Shotton, Don Hulnick, Kitsey Snow. Excused: Ryan Bossis. Absent: Bob Roth.

Tree Warden: Steve Lavatori.

Approval of Minutes of Past Meetings

Mr. McManus referred to the minutes of the meeting of the Committee on September 9 that had been provided to the members in advance of the meeting.

UPON motion duly made (Shotton), seconded (Dow), and carried, it was RESOLVED that these minutes were APPROVED. **Motion passed: 5-0.**

Report of Tree Warden

Mr. Lavatori discussed the impact of the recent high winds and roughly 2" of rain during the two days immediately preceding the meeting. Most problems were caused by trees on private property falling onto public rights-of-way; one tree failure result: uprooted. Rough estimate of storm intensity & damage: 4/10.

Change of time for November Meeting

Mr. McManus mentioned his request for starting the November meeting at 5:00pm instead of 6:30pm. UPON motion duly made (Shotton), seconded (Dow), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the November meeting will commence at 5:00 p.m. **Motion passed: 5-0.**

Sharing Knowledge With the Community

Mr. McManus inquired whether anyone had received an updated version of the draft **Forestry Management Plan** which McManus had shared with the Committee early this year that Mr. Bossis had indicated he had suggestions and edits to share with the group for consideration.

Discussion topics: Pests and Invasives

The Committee discussed the notable increase around town of Spotted Lanternfly activity as compared to recent years, the role played by *Ailanthus altissima* (aka Tree of Heaven), other locations where the insect prefers to lay its eggs, and how it travels by hitch-hiking.

The Committee also discussed the unfortunate spread of *Reynoutria japonica* (aka Japanese Knotweed) and reports of what may be successful methods of eliminating the weed locally.

Mr. Hulnick reported that one of the Garden Clubs in town had shared an article from Martha Stewart Online <https://www.marthastewart.com/how-to-get-rid-of-tree-of-heaven-11803461>

Tree Planting

Mr. McManus reported that he would need to speak to Ridgefield High School Principal about planting any trees at RHS. A resident at the corner of Gilbert and New Streets expressed interest in contributing to planting trees along the Town Right-of Way outside his property and eventually tabled his request after the Tree Warden and Mr. McManus visited the location. Another resident is interested in planting a dedicated tree near the Ridgefield Library. More trees will be planted along Main Street this year, and more locations along State Highways are being identified for approval by CT-DOT.

Adjournment

UPON motion duly made (Shotton), seconded (Hulnick), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned at 7:55 p.m. **Motion passed: 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,
Tom McManus, Chair