

DRAFT Minutes
Ridgefield Tree Committee
November 12, 2025
5:30 p.m.

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

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

Approval of Minutes of Past Meetings

Mr. McManus referred to the minutes of the meeting of the Committee on October 14 that had been provided to the members in advance of the meeting.

UPON motion duly made (Shotton), seconded (Hulnick), and carried, it was RESOLVED that these minutes were APPROVED. **Motion passed: 4-0.**

Tree Warden's Report

Heavy winds for several days just after the very popular Halloween Walk on Main Street caused significant damage to a number of trees but were cleaned up within a few days. Over the past several months, Lewis Tree has been removing foliage close to overhead electric wires on numerous trees throughout town.

Meeting Schedule for 2026

Mr. McManus reminded members that the Town requires a schedule of all regular meetings in 2026 to be submitted before February 1, 2026.

Mr. McManus reminded members that he has reserved the Gazebo in Ballard Park at 10am on Saturday May 16 for a public meeting of the Committee to celebrate Arbor Day, and asked members to brainstorm for ideas as to how to attract more participants.

Forestry Management Plan

Mr. McManus reminded members that he had circulated copies many months earlier of a draft update of the Town of Ridgefield Forestry Management Plan for comments or suggestions regarding his proposed edits.

Tree Committee Page on Town Website

Members discussed the new Town website <https://www.ridgefieldct.gov/> format and Tree Committee content. Mr. Hulnick referred to the Connecticut College website of Connecticut's Notable Trees <https://oak.conncoll.edu/notabletrees/index.jsp>, suggested that Ridgefield should submit more candidates for inclusion. Mr. McManus agreed and mentioned that each of 7 Committee members has about 5 square miles to explore, monitor, and report trees.

Planting Trees at Ridgefield Schools

Mr. McManus discussed a plan to plant 1-5 trees at Ridgefield High School, that he had discussed with Principal Greenwood. One would be south of the 3rd base dugout of the baseball diamond closest to the tennis courts, four would be in the student parking area near the south entrance. Ms. Snow had previously mentioned that the Farmingville School PTA was interested as well.

Adjournment

UPON motion duly made (Dow), seconded (Shotton), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned at 6:35 p.m. **Motion passed: 4-0.**

Respectfully submitted,
Tom McManus, Chair