

**Ridgefield Tree Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Saturday, April 27, 2024  
Ballard Park  
10:00 a.m.**

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

In attendance: Tree Warden, Steve Lavatori; Tom McManus (Chair); Ryan Bossis; Robert Roth; Paul Shotton; Kitsey Snow; Anthony Lewis Tufariello; and Eileen White.

Public: There were members of the public that joined with the Tree Committee to learn about the Ballard Park trees throughout the duration of the Meeting, up until 2 p.m. They included Vickie McCarthy of Sav-a-Tree.

The Meeting was called to Order at: 10:11 a.m. by the Chair. The Meeting concluded at: 10:32 a.m., but Members stayed for the Public to be informed.

No votes were taken.

The following were discussed:

- Mr. Bossis had circulated the Spread Sheet of the Main Street Tree Plan. One of the trees that the Committee recommended be taken down has already been taken down.
- The Chair cited the various places where trees could be planted, including 4-5 places near the Stop Sign at the Northeast section of Ballard Park. The current Town Budget has not included plantings.
- The Chair asked the Members walk the Plan to cite places that may not already be on the Plan and to coordinate times of coverage for meeting with the Public today so that they would know exactly how to deal with a hazardous tree, including calling Eversource, if there are trees near wires.
- The Chair distributed to the Members their Maps that show their designated areas of the Town so that they would locate areas where the public could park to see remarkable trees.
- The Chair asked that the Members take pictures of trees and get the App that Mr. Tufariello shared.
- Ms. McCarthy of Sav-a-Tree discussed various aspects of tree management, including how important it is to get the Ash trees down and “Sudden Oak Death Syndrome.”
- Ms. McCarthy also conveyed that the age of a tree cannot be determined by diameter and suggested the Committee read “Forest Forensics,” a book about “reading” the stonewalls of New England. The stonewalls provide a history of the problems trees have faced, including the devastating 1938 Hurricane that wiped out one-third of New England’s trees.

The Next Meeting is to be an in-person meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 13, 2024 at the Tree Warden's Office. The Meeting date was changed due to the Town's Annual Meeting on May 6, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen B. White