

**Ridgefield Tree Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
March 4, 2024  
6:30 p.m.**

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

In attendance: Tree Warden, Steve Lavatori; Tom McManus (arrived 6:33 p.m.); Chair; Ryan Bossis; Robert Roth; Paul Shotton (arrived 6:34 p.m.); Kitsey Snow (arrived 6:32 p.m.); Anthony Lewis Tufariello; and Eileen White.

The Chair began the Tree Committee (“Committee”) Meeting at 6:34 p.m. Mr. McManus stressed that the Agenda was created to cover all the topics of interest to the Members.

**Report of Tree Warden**

The Tree Warden reported that, with the recent windstorm, EverSource had the roads pretty well managed last Thursday and Friday. The Highway Department sent out a few crews and did a fine job.

**Change of April Meeting Date**

The Chair stated that he had circulated an e-mail about proposing a different April meeting date.

UPON motion duly made (Shotton), seconded (Tufariello, and carried, it was RESOLVED that the Next Meeting of the Tree Committee take place on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 due to religious observance. Vote: Yes-5, No-2.

**Finances**

The Chair reported that there were no changes since the previous Meeting regarding the Finances.

**Status of Grants**

The Chair stated that a grant application has been submitted to the Ridgefield Thrift Shop because the purpose of the Committee is to “enhance and beautify the Town.”

**Approval of Minutes**

Ms. White stated that the Members had not yet voted on approving the February 2024 Minutes.

UPON motion duly made (Tufariello), seconded (Shotton), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of February 2024 be approved as presented. Mr. Bossis abstained. Vote: Yes-6, Abstention-1, No-0.

**Change of April Meeting Date**

UPON motion duly made (Shotton), seconded (Tufariello, and carried, it was RESOLVED that the Next Meeting of the Tree Committee take place on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 due to religious observance. Vote: Yes-5, No-2.

### **Old Business**

The Chair stated that he had circulated an e-mail about using the venue of Ballard Park to discuss trees and to have Tree Tours.

The Chair asked the Committee to go around Ballard Park and look at the map that Cheryl Cook did years ago to determine mis-identified trees.

### **April 27, 2024 Event/Meeting (Rain Date April 28, 2024)**

UPON motion duly made (Shotton), seconded (Snow), and carried, it was RESOLVED that there be an April 27, 2024 Event/Meeting at Ballard Park for Arbor Day with a Rain Date of April 28, 2024. Vote-7, No-0.

Mr. Tufariello asked if the Committee should set up coffee and bagels for the event. This was not decided.

### **Projects and Publications**

Regarding the tri-fold book that Mr. Roth is working on, the Tree Warden and the Chair walked at Parks & Recreation today to scope out what is there that would help the Committee encourage the public to have enthusiasm for trees.

Mr. Tufariello and the Mr. Lavatori discussed the phosphite spring application treatments for certain trees.

Discussion ensued about various beech trees – one at 25 Kellog Street near Pin Pack.

The Chair distributed a four-page grid of work that Mr. Tufariello had done with determining the coordinates of trees with his GPS tool. Mr. Tufariello has a GPS tool that displays the coordinates in decimal format.

The Committee discussed how various devices could be used to determine tree coordinates.

Mr. Shotton suggested that “iNaturalist” is a good app for tree coordinates.

Mr. Tufariello stated that “goodconverters.com” is another app for converting the numbers. For example .03 miles = 150 feet. Mr. Tufariello also said that “exif file” gives the photographic location.

Ms. Snow said that the Town is working on a new system for maps and Mr. Bossis offered that WESCOG has something similar.

The Chair stated that he had talked about the technology with Jake Miller at Town Hall. Within Ridgefield’s 35 square miles, 1,000 trees could be identified.

Ms. Snow said that the Conservation Commission is using an application to measure the Trails.

Mr. McManus and Mr. Shotton discussed the Bennett Farms Road area and the State Park there.

The Chair said that he had started a Facebook Page: Ridgefield,CTtrees which already has 30 members.

The Committee discussed the tri-fold with Mr. Shotton suggesting that the Conservation Commission list should be used for its distribution.

Ms. Snow checked that the Committee could piggyback off of the tax notifications in sending out a flyer.

Ms. Snow commented that the Garden are not on the Ballard Park Map, but Ms. Cook can do revisions to it.

For the Arbor Day celebration, the Committee has the Ballard Park Gazebo reserved.

The Committee discussed the various book publications: **The Notable Trees Book (2004), Ridgefield Trees of Interest (2014), and The Ridgefield Tree book (1997).**

The Chair suggested that, perhaps, it is better to do individual maps, since books become obsolete very quickly.

#### **New Business**

Ms. Snow said that the Garden Club and the Conservation Commission have set up a joint Task Force to address invasive species in the Town, including those at Parks and Recreation and those in the Great Swamp. She also stated a concern about accessibility for the handicapped for these Meetings. Mr. Roth explained that the First Floor is accessible.

#### **Adjournment**

UPON motion duly made (Roth), seconded (Snow), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting adjourn at 7:55 P.M. Vote: Yes-7, No-0.

The Next Meeting is to be an in-person meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at the Tree Warden's Office.

Respectfully submitted,

*(signed)*

Eileen B. White  
Secretary  
Town of Ridgefield Tree Committee