

**Ridgefield Tree Committee
Ridgefield, CT**

Meeting Minutes – December 17, 2008

Minutes recorded by Joseph Eltz

Location of meeting: Tree Warden's Office – 60 South Street

Members present – John Pinchbeck (Tree Warden), Nancy Boersma, Joe Eltz, Tom Venus, Will Molyneux, Vicki Yolen, David Andry

Absent – Priscilla Holmes

Meeting called to order at 4:36pm.

Minutes of October 15 meeting

Will Molyneux made a motion to “approve” the minutes. Tom Venus moved to second the motion. All members present voted to approve. None against.

Treasurer's Report – Balance as of 10/31/08 was \$2355.69. Still awaiting the \$1,000 grant money for the “Largest Sugar Maple” contest.

Notable Tree Project

Nancy Boersma took a photo of the winning sugar maple (from the largest sugar maple contest) for inclusion in the current notable tree guide. Nancy also spoke with Ridgefield printing about providing an “insert” that can be applied as an overlay on the appropriate page in the guide. The price for the insert would be reasonable and the intent is to buy just enough inserts to include in the remaining copies of the existing notable tree guide.

The committee discussed adding more notable trees to the existing list and it was suggested by Tom Venus that as a first step the committee identify particular species / varieties that are not currently on the list. Each member to bring to the January meeting examples of trees they think should be included on the list. All agreed we'd like to keep the list somewhat small. Perhaps no more than 25.

John Pinchbeck indicated he is still exploring signs to mark notable trees and that we would plan to discuss again at the January meeting.

Town Projects

The committee briefly reviewed the plans in front of Walgreen's on Danbury Road and will talk more about them at the January meeting.

Tree Warden Report

John Pinchbeck provided an update from Priscilla Holmes regarding the Garden Club activities discussed at the last meeting.

Planning and Zoning agreed to have a Willow at 41A Catoonah street removed due to the condition and potential hazard. P&Z had been expressed concern about possible drainage issues if the tree were removed but, reached an agreement with the homeowner whereby the drainage issues would be addressed.

John Pinchbeck submitted the required paperwork for the Town to maintain its certification as Tree City USA.

John Pinchbeck submitted the 2009 capital plan to the Town.

Other Reports

Vicki Yolen shared with the committee suggestions for an '09 Arbor Day Symposium which includes a guest speaker and other activities. The proposed focus of Arbor Day Symposium will be to promote the philosophy of bio-diversity of native plants to sustain wildlife in our gardens.

Will Molyneux made a motion for the Committee to lead the effort to plan and organize the Arbor Day Symposium on Native Plants. The motion received a "second" from John Pinchbeck. The committee then voted and all members present voted "for" the motion. None against.

Old Business – N/A

New Business – N/A

Adjournment – 5:44pm

Motion made by Tom Venus to adjourn the meeting. Move to second the motion by Vicki Yolen. The committee then voted and all members present voted to adjourn the meeting. None against.