

Tree Committee
Ridgefield, Connecticut

Minutes of the October 21, 2009, meeting

Present: Nancy Boersma, Joe Eltz, Priscilla Holmes, Tom Venus, Vicki Yolen, John Pinchbeck

Absent: David Andry, Will Molyneux

The meeting was called to order at 4:38 p.m.

Minutes of the September 23 meeting were approved as circulated.

Treasurer's Report: Balance in the Tree Committee account is \$3661.19. Nancy turned in \$32.00 from sales of Ridgefield's Notable Trees.

Town Projects: Paul Roche joined the group to review the Richardson Park Project, which has been fully funded by a grant from the Richardson Fund. He went over the tentative plans, including the list of proposed trees to be planted, and responded to questions and discussion.

John and Nancy reported that they were in the process of contacting owners of the Baskin-Robbins and Adam Broderick properties, where the committee would like to plant trees this fall or next spring. They also recommended replacing the "lost" Anne Richardson tree high on the lawn near the entrance to the Venus Building. Nancy is obtaining the signs for the Largest Sugar Maple winners.

Notable Tree Project: Joe reviewed our tentative list of New Notables and set up the following schedule for publicizing possible choices, including designated months and committee members responsible for measuring and photos:
November – Sweet Gum – Nancy; December – American Holly – John and Vicki; January – Eastern White Pine – Tom; February – Eastern Red Cedar – Tom; Spring (May) – Redbud – unassigned; Shagbark Hickory – June/July – Tom; Tuliptree – August – John/Vicki; Black Walnut – September – unassigned.

Tree Warden's Report: John reported on his trip to the Bartlett Experimental site in North Carolina and shared pictures he had taken. He mentioned various other tree issues in town, none major.

Old Business: None discussed.

New Business: Priscilla reiterated that she would like to involve Todd Forrest in some way in town tree issues or related subjects.

Vicki proposed that our committee promote the Arbor Day National Poster Contest in the town's fifth grade classes as our Arbor Day focus. Discussion followed, and the group felt that we should pursue that plan. Vicki will follow through with the appropriate school officials and get back to us.

Nancy reported an interesting interaction with a father of a fourth grader, who brought his daughter and her friend to her house to find an aspen tree. Nancy noted that all Ridgefield fourth graders study trees in one science unit, and that the Tree Committee might keep that fact in mind for future involvement.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17.

Nancy Boersma, scribe