

## **Ridgefield Tree Committee Ridgefield, Connecticut**

**Minutes** – September 23, 2009 meeting at 60 South Street, Tree Warden's office

**Members Present** – Nancy Boersma, Tom Venus, John Pinchbeck, Will Molyneux, Priscilla Holmes, Vicky Yolen, David Andry, Joe Eltz (scribe)

**Members Absent** - None

**Call to Order** - Chairman Tom Venus called the meeting called to order at 4:38pm

**Guest Attendee** - John Pinchbeck introduced a guest, Storm Heidinger. Storm is a Boy Scout from Troop #116 and is working on his Eagle Scout award. For his project he is going to inventory existing trees in Richardson Park and along with other scout members, do some general "clean-up" of the grounds. John will oversee this project along with the Parks and Recreation Department.

**Minutes of the July meeting** – Motion for approval of the minutes for the July meeting was made by Vicky Yolen and seconded by Nancy Boersma.

**Treasurer's Report** – There is currently a balance of \$3659.95 in the Tree Committee bank account.

**Notable Trees** – The Committee discussed the type of Cedar that should be included in the next set of trees to be added to the Notable Tree Book and agreed it would be an Eastern Red Cedar.

Tom Venus suggested that instead of announcing to the town all eight trees we would be looking to add to the Notable Tree Book, that we instead announce one or two trees on a weekly basis. The rest of the Committee agreed this approach would maximize the exposure of the activity and perhaps even increase the amount of town participation in identifying the best examples of each type of tree.

Nancy Boersma is working on an article to put in the newspaper announcing the Tree Committee's project to identify additional trees for the Notable Tree book.

The Committee tentatively agreed that we would begin the search for the new trees in November.

**Town Projects** – John and Nancy to meet to discuss plantings at Adam Broderick and Baskin Robins.

A tree in honor of Anne Richardson to be planted with the location TBD. Priscilla Holmes to check with the Garden Club for suggestions.

## **Town Projects (continued)**

John and Nancy to work on the signage for the winning trees from the largest sugar maple contest held by the Tree Committee.

**Tree Warden Report** - John recognized and thanked Nancy Boersma for her years of dedication and leadership as the Chairman of the Tree Committee

John informed the committee that there is a Tree Warden's Conference at the UConn West Hartford campus. The main topic will be the recent storm in Wethersfield CT and the resulting tree damage.

CL&P is has been very active cutting and pruning trees in town and are doing a good job.

John commented on the high number of maple trees in and around town that don't appear to be doing well and attributed it to the weather this year.

The Committee discussed how much involvement, if any, the committee should have with regard to "invasive plants". The Committee agreed that for now, it would make the most sense to focus on insects that attack trees.

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** – Vicky Yolen commented that she has and idea for an Arbor Day event for 2010. She will discuss it at the next meeting.

John suggested the Tree Committee apply for an "America the Beautiful" grant in the future. The project for which the grant money would be used is a comprehensive inventory of the trees on main street.

**Adjournment** - Nancy Boersma made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Will Molyneux. Meeting adjourned at 6:12pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joe Eltz.