

HARTFORD TREE BOARD MINUTES

Date November 21, 2023 | time 5 pm | Meeting called to order by Jeff Arnold _____

Commission Members In Attendance

Jeff Arnold, Chair, David Barrell, Leif Smedman, Alan Haehnel, Gaal Shepherd Crowl, Clare Forseth

Commission Members Absent

None

Others in Attendance

Scott Hausler, Park and Recreation Director

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by : _____ Gaal Crowl _____ Seconded by: Alan Haehnel _____

In Favor: All _____ Opposed: None _____

The motion was Approved or Disapproved? Approved _____

Citizen Comments

None

Commission Member Comment

None

Directors Report

None

Old Business

1) Tree Warden Report: Leif and Jeff met with the Department of Public Works to look at trees that could be a problem. One section on Highland Ave have maples that had dropping branches that could be a hazard. Paula Street had a number of boxelders that had dropping branches. In West Hartford, Wentworth Rd also had trees with dropping branches. The DPW would like to buy a bucket-truck to do some of the work themselves. Jeff also looked at what might be a butternut tree on Christian Street that might need pruning back.

2) Go over the Tree City USA application process. Jeff will apply for the Tree City USA recognition. We should find a place to hang the Tree City USA plaques. The board will look into buying some Tree City USA signs for the street as you come into town. Clare will investigate the signage and see what can be displayed.

3) Discuss the Grant process for ash tree removal and replacement: Jeff will write the grant to take out the ash trees and replant. Another grant in the spring might let us plant some more trees.

4) Discuss Gaal's field trip to Quechee: Safford Ave off the Quechee-West Hartford Road has some huge ash trees at the end of the road. There is logging going on and it might be good try to save the large trees. After Thanksgiving a field trip will be organized.

5) Plan a time to do work at the Highland Avenue Route 5 Intersection. Some dying crab apple trees could be removed by the Tree Warden with the Tree Board's help. DPW said they will pick up the debris. Jeff will schedule the work day.

6) Relevant news stories: In 1964 David escorted the National Christmas Tree to Washington and spread PR along the way.

Jeff shared a buckthorn article. There are two types: glossy buckthorn and common buckthorn. Sales of the invasive plant are banned in many states. They grow fast and out-compete natives. S-They spread by seeds.

Jeff shared an article on pruning. Hardwood trees can be pruned in the fall. You can take 20-25% out of a tree at a time. When pruning a branch, leave a branch collar.

Jeff shared that a man is raising yellow bud hickory trees that may be able to survive because of climate change. They thrive in flood zones.

7) Update on memorial tree planting for Linda Wilson long time Hartford Conservation Commission member. Alan talked to the Jericho Club and they have already contributed to the fund that raised \$1,215. Clare and Karen Douville will order the tree before February from Northern Nurseries.

New Business

1) Scott shared a budget item that is being suggested for Downtown Beautification of \$30,000. A Master Gardener could manage trees/plants in the five towns.

Agenda Items for Next Commission Meeting

Next Meeting

December 19, 2023

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by: Gaal Cowl _____

Seconded by: Alan Haehnel _____

All in Favor: _____ All _____ Opposed: None _____

Respectfully submitted by: Clare Forseth _____ Signature: _____

Date: 11/27/23 _____

Hartford Tree Board Commission Members

- Jeff Arnold, Chair and Tree Warden (03/07/2025)
- Clare Forseth, Secretary (11/15/2024)
- David Barrell, Treasurer (06/01/2026)
- Leif Smedman, Member (06/01/2026)
- Alan Haehnel Member (2026)
- Gaal Shepherd Cowl Member and Assistant Tree Warden (2/10/25)
- Vacant (1 positions)