

HARTFORD TREE BOARD MINUTES

5/17/24 | 5 pm | Meeting called to order by _Jeff Arnold_____

Commission Members In Attendance

Jeff Arnold, Chair, Leif Smedman, Alan Haehnel, David Barrell, Jazmin Guyette, Mike Copp,
Alan Haehnel, Clare Forseth

Commission Members Absent

None

Others in Attendance

Scott Housler, Parks and Recreation Director

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mike Copp _Seconded by: Jazmin Guyette

In Favor _____ Opposed _____

The motion was Approved or Disapproved? Approved_____

Citizen Comments

None

Commission Member Comments

None

Directors Report

None

Old Business

1) Tree Warden Report:

- Pruning of Honey Locusts on Rt 14. Jeff will look for more bids as the bid from Chippers was quite high @ \$7000 for pruning and \$1400 for traffic control. Jeff would like to do the work while the leaves are still on the branches to help distinguish the dead from the living branches but Bartlett Tree Expert representative Ed White said it makes no difference to his experienced workers.
- Another elm tree on Pine St has died and will be removed along with an elm on the east side of Rt 5 leading up to the high school. We have a replacement for the Katsura tree that has died on Pine St but

will plant that one in Lyman Point Park for the Community Caring for Canopies grant in exchange for a Freeman maple.

- Jeff and Alan watered the newly planted city trees using 5 gallon buckets of water with 3 ounces of phosphite 30 added. They used the town's 140 gallon plastic water tank strapped to the back of their dump truck.
- Leif reported that there is an elm tree on Quechee Main St that should be looked at.

2) Tree Nursery (improved watering system) and Riparian Buffer Project Update.

- Jazmin will buy a new soaker hose(s) from Foggs and replace the other hoses in the spring to help improve the efficiency of the watering system. Soaker hoses deliver water to the base of the trees which avoids wetting the leaves that invites fungal infections. We decided to wait to purchase new lines because installing them now would just require their removal in a month for winter storage.
- Clare will investigate how long to leave plastic on knotweed. Scott has purchased a small tractor with a variable angle cutting blade to cut Japanese knotweed on sloped areas like at Watson Park. We would like to cover the plastic with some natural material but state law forbids us from bringing in outside material to riparian buffer zones. An alternative might be to chip any invasive trees found in Lyman Park and spread the material atop the plastic.
- The board discussed whether handing off projects to the town should be included in its grant proposals. The board is feeling overwhelmed with the maintenance of completed projects. We need to understand our capabilities. Jazmin will organize our future projects on a calendar and track equipment that is stored. Clare will send the Board the Tree Board mission statement and the Vision statement which we will put at the top of our Monthly Agendas.

3) Plan Tree ID walk for October:

- Mike will spearhead the next ID walk. Clare will send previous tree ID walk locations to Mike. Oct 19th will be our next Tree ID Walk. One suggestion was the Barwood property, Jeff's neighbor.

4) Tree of the Month report : F.X. Flinn suggested that the beech tree on Tim and Lynn Porter's Quechee property be the October Tree of the Month. That will be the last Tree of the Month until the spring.

5) Financial donation towards pruning of Maple at the Hartford Library.

- The Board agreed to pay Chippers \$800 towards the tree work at Hartford Library which will include some limb removals and cabling of a mature maple that is threatening their building.

6) Update on Community Forestry Grant.

- Jim Lamontagne has committed to planting seven trees at Town Hall and Lyman Point Park near the end of September/beginning of October. Jim, Clare and Scott will walk the area and place the trees. Board members are invited to participate. Two trees will be added to the line of three trees that we previously planted along the parking lot. Five others will be planted in the Park.

7) Tree ID Walk:

- The walk at Hartford Point Cemetery was well attended and had a number of large mature trees to highlight. The walk lasted 2 hours and there were no drop outs. Clare made another booklet for the walk and Jazmin and Mike brought some specimens to help with the identification.

7) Urban Forestry News Items:

- There are many ecological benefits of the native black willow tree. Black willow trees are helpful to wildlife since its flowers provide one of the earliest spring sources of nectar and pollen for insects; birds eat the catkins and buds; the leaves are larval hosts for hundreds of butterfly and moths species and deer, muskrat, beaver, rabbit eat the twigs and wood turtles eat their leaves. The roots stabilize the riparian buffer. Its fibrous roots soak up water like big sponges and the roots also suck up pollutants like lead, cadmium and copper. The bark contains salicylic acid used to make aspirin.
- Elongate hemlock scale and the wooly adelgid are serious threats to hemlocks. Elongate Hemlock Scale has been found recently in Windsor and Orange counties. The tiny sucking insect grows under a covering of wax that resembles the scale of a fish or reptile. The scale nymphs move passively by wind or on animals. Adult females are immobile and adult males are weak fliers. Symptomatic branches have yellow needles, premature needle loss and dieback and severe infestations can lead to tree mortality.

New Business

None

Agenda Items for Next Commission Meeting

None

Next Meeting

October 15, 2024 at 5 PM

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by: Leif Smedman No Quorum _____

Seconded by: Jeff Arnold _____

All in Favor: All _____ Opposed: None

Respectfully submitted by: Clare Forseth __ Signature: _____

Date: 9/20/24

Hartford Tree Board Commission Members

- Jeff Arnold, Chair (03/07/2025)
- Clare Forseth, Secretary (11/15/2024)
- David Barrell, Treasurer (06/01/2026)
- Leif Smedman, Member (06/01/2026)
- Jazmin Guyette Member (8/2027)
- Alan Haehnel Member (2026)
- Mike Copp (05/2027)
- Jeff Arnold, Tree Warden