

HARTFORD TREE BOARD MINUTES

10/15/24 | 5 pm | Meeting called to order by _Jeff Arnold_____

Commission Members In Attendance

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

Commission Members Absent

Alan Haehnel

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 _____ all _____ Opposed _____ none _____

The motion was Approved or Disapproved? Approved_____

Citizen Comments

None

Commission Member Comments

None

Directors Report

None

Old Business

1) Tree Warden Report: Work was completed by Chippers on the maple tree in front of the Hartford Town Library. At first they cabled it, then Jeff had them return to prune more of the tree to improve the weight reduction. Weight from high branches acts as a lever and can split the trunk below. The tree is probably over 80 years old and is getting a fair amount of salt from the parking lot, adjacent sidewalks and the road so the Board will also need to annually fertilize the tree to keep it healthy.

2) Riparian Buffer Project updates on 2023 and 2024 projects:

A beaver felled two cottonwood trees planted by the Tree Board five years ago and damaged a third cottonwood. The Board replaced them with stock from our nursery, using a silver maple and an elderberry. We didn't put up protective fencing for the elderberry since beaver don't feed on them. We bought a roll of four foot high by 75 ft long fencing to replace the shorter chicken wire that did not protect the cottonwoods and coiled it around the silver maple plus 15 other saplings of cottonwood, willow and silver maples that we planted last year near the Hartford Bridge. The beaver left 2 ft high stumps that were protected by the chicken wire. The rest of the two trees including all their branches were nowhere to be found.

Lowery Landscaping mowed along the White River and Connecticut River riparian buffers at Lyman Point Park and cut down what was mostly Japanese knotweed. Additional upkeep will be needed until 10 mm black plastic can be laid down. Clare will discuss with Lowery to see if they can scrape the dead knotweed material back from the area then lay the plastic down followed by the replacement of the soil over the plastic for aesthetic reasons and to hold down its seams.

A work day has been scheduled for October 26th at 10 AM to raise the crown of trees along the riparian buffer and to cut the bittersweet vines.

Planting of 7 trees in the park is still on schedule for late Fall.

Clare will Complete and send a mid-project report to Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program (VUCF) before October 30th.

3) Preparations for a Tree ID walk on November 1st will be supported and advertised by Ben Lay, an employee of the CO-OP Food Store on Maple St.. He has been "tasked with building an events and education catalog" by the store. The Tree Board will head up the Tree ID Walk.

Follow up on exposed roots of mature Norway spruce at Hartford Point Cemetery that was discovered during the Tree ID walk held on 8/24/0024. Jazmine will send a letter to Ken Parker, one of the privately owned graveyard's trustees, to try to persuade its caretakers not to mow over its roots. She will suggest they cover the roots with soil or mulch to keep the mowers away from the affected area.

4) Tree of the Month report: Clare welcomes suggestions for next year's trees to be highlighted. David suggested a little leaf linden near the Quechee Post Office and a row of crimson king maple trees on Murphy's Road in Quechee.

5) Urban Forestry News Items: Davey Tree Expert Company, who is the current owner of Chippers, just opened up a biochar facility in Ohio which will eventually include three kilns that operate 24/7 to turn wood chips from their operations into biochar. Previously, many of the company's wood chips were sent to the landfill. Biochar is a carbon-rich charcoal-like substance that offers many benefits to the soil. It can help resist soil compaction, improve infiltration and retention of water, hold nutrients and absorb salts. It also doesn't decompose, unlike compost, so it will continue to provide benefits for many years. It's use during the planting of street trees makes them more resistant.

Fall fertilization of stressed trees is a good idea especially the application of humic substances to supplement the soil around trees that don't benefit from decomposing leaves that are usually raked away. "Humic substances" is an umbrella term covering humic acid, fulvic acid, humin, and hymatomelanic acid, which differ in solubility. By definition, **humic acid** is soluble in water at neutral and alkaline pH, but insoluble at acidic pH < 2. **Fulvic acid** is soluble in water at any pH. **Humin** is not soluble in water at any pH. **Hymatomelanic acid** is part of humic acid that is soluble in ethanol. The fertilization should be done after the leaves have dropped and before the first frost. If done early in the fall, during the tree's growing cycle, it could cause mold to grow around the roots of the tree and damage them. The fertilizer must be applied 1 to 3x beyond the width of the spread of the tree's foliage to reach the entire root system. Besides humic substances, nitrogen, phosphorus and

potassium should also be applied. At this late time of the year, the fertilizer is not used on new foliage growth, but by the roots to make them more disease resistant and to further their development and any excess nutrients are stored in the roots and become immediately available when needed for new growth in the spring.

New Business

None

Agenda Items for Next Commission Meeting

None

Next Meeting

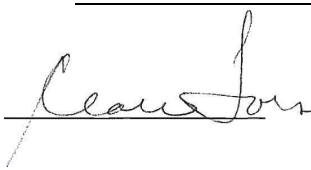
November 18, 2024 at 5 PM

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: 10/16/24 _____

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