

HARTFORD TREE BOARD MINUTES

August 19, 2025 | 5:12 pm | Meeting called to order by Jazmin Guyette

Commission Members In Attendance

Jazmin Guyette, chair, David Barrell, Alan Haehnel, Clare Forseth, Mike Copp

Commission Members Absent

Gaal Shepherd Crawl

Others in Attendance

Miranda Dupre, Selectboard Liaison

Approval of Minutes

In Favor: Opposed:

The motion was Approved or Disapproved? July minutes will be voted on at the September meeting.

Citizen Comments

None

Commission Member Comments

None

Directors Report

None

Old Business

Old Business

Tree Warden Report:

On August 14th, I sent out an RFP (see Scope of Services) to six Tree Service companies with a deadline of August 25th at 2PM to submit their sealed bids. The contractors can attend the opening of them.

SCOPE of SERVICES

This proposal is intended to:

At Hartford Main St. or 1523 Maple St. Judiciously trim lateral branches of the four mature honey locusts that are growing close and over the top of buildings so that there is approximately 3 feet of clearance between them. Remove dead branches and other branches that interfere with power lines and lamp posts. Use ANSI pruning methods without removing more than 25% of foliage. Jack Kauder whose office is located at 1533

Maple St and whose phone number is 603-277-9049 will, when informed with 24 hours notice, help to set up cones to restrict parking in the work zone. Remove debris.

At Hartford Point Cemetery and 807 Maple St. Remove branches that are dead or dying, diseased or infested, rubbing, weakened or broken, 1" diameter or larger material on both side of the fence. Chip and haul away the debris. Follow ANSI standards and remove debris. Ensure that traffic is controlled during work.

With Clare, we fertilized with Phosphite, the White Oak in front of Town Hall, the new hackberry on Lyman Point and the struggling red maple at the beginning of the back Maxfield parking lot.

Phosphite costs about \$150/gallon and can be diluted with 200 gallons of water.

Phosphite for Stress Tolerance: Phosphite, derived from phosphorous acid (H₃PO₃), can be beneficial for trees facing stress, particularly from drought, waterlogging, diseases, or insect infestations. It works by enhancing the tree's natural defenses, and in some cases, exhibits direct fungitoxic effects against certain pathogens like Phytophthora, according to Penn State Extension.

Root Growth and Nutrient Uptake: Phosphite can positively influence root architecture and increase root biomass, potentially leading to improved water and nutrient uptake, especially under stress conditions. Studies suggest it may also improve nitrogen and carbon assimilation in trees.

We also pruned the two newly planted trees.

I gave the OK for the removal of a number of boxelders that the Board of Directors of the Dog Park wanted taken down because they were precariously leaning.

Bylaw Discussion-

Updates for 2025: The board is asked to look over the Hartford Tree Board Bylaws and come to the next meeting with updating ideas.

Project and Events Discussions:

Nursery- Water and Workday (Dirt/Mulch coverage):

- Clare and Jazmin are on schedule to water in September. Parks and Recreation has installed a sprinkler that could be used to water.
- A work session is planned for Sunday, August 31st at 9 AM to spread the dirt and mulch on the plants in the nursery. Bring shovels and wheelbarrows if possible.

Tree of the Month (September)

- The blue spruce might be the September Tree of the Month. It was suggested that the little leaf linden in Quechee could also be a candidate for Tree of the Month.

Upcoming Events/Planning (Communications/Flyers):

- Fall ID Walk (Middle School Updates) Jazmin will reach out to teachers to see how they envision the walk enhancing their curriculum.
- Winter ID Walk: The winter walk could be outside or the board could come up with some other idea that could be an indoor educational event.

Planting and Maintenance (Town) of Town trees: At the moment each entity is deciding who is responsible for planting and maintaining town trees. We're trying to find a balance.

Grant Updates: Parks and Recreation has mowed some of the knotweed as an experiment on managing the knotweed on level ground. More ideas/experiments will continue to be tried in the harder to reach areas. Mike heard of a method using small wire mesh that chokes the knotweed as it grows, but lets smaller grasses come through. Clare is still deciding where to plant native bushes that won't interfere with the P&R mowing and plans for the park.

Education Continued Discussion: Open to Ideas to generate support to the Board's vision (National Science Soil Survey, Scavenger Hunts, etc.)

6:15 pm Closing

New Business

Agenda Items for Next Commission Meeting

Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by: David Barrell

Seconded by: Jazmin Guyette

All in Favor: All Opposed: None

Respectfully submitted by: Clare Forseth Signature: _____

Date: July 16, 2025

Hartford Tree Board Commission Members

- Clare Forseth, Secretary (11/15/2027)
- David Barrell, Treasurer (06/01/2026)
- Jazmin Guyette, Chair (8/2027)
- Mike Copp, Vice Chair (5/2027)
- Alan Haehnel (6/1/26)
- Gaal Shepherd Cowl (8/28)
- Jeff Arnold, Tree Warden
- Vacant (1 position)