



TOWN OF OLD LYME

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Old Lyme Tree Commission

THURSDAY, January 18, 2024, 4:00 PM

MEMORIAL TOWN HALL

MEETING HALL

Minutes

Attendance: Regular members: Joanne DiCamillo, Michael Gaffey, Joan Flynn, Anne Bing

Absent: Peter Edmondson, Emily Griswold, Tom Degnan, Tree Warden, ex-officio

Guest: Fred McCullough

Fred Behringer arrived at 5:04 p.m. and was authorized to vote in place of Emily Griswold.

Michael Gaffey and Anne Bing left the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. DiCamillo called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m., welcomed guest Fred McCullough and introduced the members to him.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The 11/16/23 regular meeting minutes were considered

Joan Flynn made a motion, seconded by Anne Bing, to approve the 11/16/23 minutes as presented. Joanne DiCamillo, Joann Flynn, Anne Bing, and Michael Gaffey voted in favor. Motion passed.

BUDGET REPORT

1-06-2024 General Fund balance, period invoices

Joanne DiCamillo met with Finance Director Anita Mancini to review the 2024-2025 Tree Commission budget request and the current budget expenditures.

The General Fund balance was \$10,926 as of 1/6/2024, including \$5,030 in Contracted Services. Current year expenditures include line items Clerk, \$279; Contracted Services \$2970 for tree trimming at town hall, the weeping cherry tree at the OLCLC, and the memorial cherry tree at the police station.

12-31-2023 FY 2023-24, Board of Finance Approved Carryover: \$5,000 for tree planting on Ferry Road.

Review 2024-2025 budget request:

The budget request was due on December 18. Since the commission was not meeting in December, Joanne DiCamillo asked for an extension and committed to submitting the budget on Jan. 19, the day after the January meeting. This would allow commission members to review and decide on the budget and vote on the seedlings order at their meeting.

There was a discussion about sponsoring another seedling giveaway. The event was highly successful last year; 250 potted tree seedlings were distributed to Old Lyme residents at a cost of \$405. The tree species, all natives, were white dogwood, eastern redbud, sugar maple, scarlet



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oak, and white spruce. Michael Gaffey said that he would like to order a different species from another supplier.

Mrs. DiCamillo asked him about the cost and the number. He did not have that information with him. Mrs. DiCamillo stated that the budget was due the next day. There was not enough time to evaluate a different supplier. In her opinion, it was best to use the same supplier as last year, the Arbor Day Foundation. Ordering other seedlings can be discussed later.

Last year we ordered 5 bundles of 50 trees each of white dogwood, eastern redbud, sugar maple, scarlet oak, and white spruce, all native trees. Mrs. DiCamillo proposed submitting the FY24/25 budget request in the amount of \$14,175, the same as last year, plus \$405 for tree seedlings.

Michael Gaffey made a motion to order a different variety of trees from a different supplier. No one seconded the motion; therefore, there was no vote.

Joan Flynn made a motion, seconded by Anne Bing, to duplicate last year's seedling order from the Arbor Day Foundation. Joanne DiCamillo, Joan Flynn, and Anne Bing voted in favor; Michael Gaffey voted no. Motion passed.

Joan Flynn made a motion, seconded by Anne Bing, to approve the FY24/25 budget request of \$14,175 plus \$405 for tree seedlings. Joanne DiCamillo, Joan Flynn, and Anne Bing voted in favor; Michael Gaffey voted no. Motion passed.

Election of 2024 Chairman *Fred Behringer moved, seconded by Anne Bing, to nominate Joanne DiCamillo for chairman of the Tree Commission for 2024. Joan Flynn, Anne Bing, and Fred Behringer voted in favor; Michael Gaffey voted no. Motion passed.*

OLD BUSINESS

Tree Maintenance edge, clear weeds, mulch review: there was a brief discussion. Several of the trees have been edged and weeded; none have been mulched. The discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Town Green 3, Town Woods Park 3, Hains Park 1, Transit Hub 3,
Police Station Memorial Tree 1, Lyme Street 1, Ferry Road 1

Tree Inventory update F. Behringer: Fred Behringer brought his laptop and projected a presentation on the large screen TV in the meeting room. The inventory is in Excel and includes a list with maps of the areas included in the inventory. The trees that have been evaluated are in a database with basic information – tree species, height, diameter, condition, date of observation, and notes. The maps were downloaded from the town's GIS system, the trees put on the maps and numbered. A chart is included on the map.



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Ferry Road sidewalk project update Joanne DiCamillo reported that the former First Selectman Tim Griswold will continue to chair the Ferry Road Sidewalk Committee. The project has been sent to CT DOT for approval. Once approved, it will go out to bid.

Old Lyme Events Magazine TC article: Michael Gaffey submitted an article to Old Lyme Events about the seedling giveaway and asked people to email the Tree Commission with feedback on how their trees are doing. So far, there have not been any responses.

Bartlett Trimming Proposal for the trees and shrubs around the parking lot and in the foundation beds at town hall: In 2021, trimming 14 trees and 2 shrubs around the town hall grounds cost \$1,080. The new proposal for 14 trees and several more shrubs, was \$2,700. Mrs. DiCamillo expressed concern about the cost. Joan Flynn agreed. Mrs. DiCamillo will get another quote.

NEW BUSINESS

Communications

Thank you note from former First Selectman, Timothy Griswold: Joanne DiCamillo read the note from Tim.

12-15-23 email from town web site: A Lyme Street resident expressed concern about the trees that will be removed for the Ferry Road sidewalk project. Joanne DiCamillo responded that the commission spent a great deal of time researching and working to limit the number of removals. The number of tree removals was reduced to five, far less than the original number and we are planning to plant new trees.

Roadside trimming for school bus access - Tree Warden, Thomas Degnan looked at the areas but did not see much that needed attention.

Review of responsibilities of commission members: the discussion was postponed.

Fred Behringer reported that the Arbor Day tree-giveaway is still posted on the commission's web page and should be removed.

ADJOURNMENT

Joan Flynn made a motion, seconded by Fred Behringer, to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 pm. Joanne DiCamillo, Joan Flynn, and Fred Behringer voted in favor. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT Next regular meeting: FEBRUARY 15, 2024, 4:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Hansen, Clerk