

Fairfield Forestry Committee Minutes

February 9th, 2012, 12:30 p.m.

Jennings Room, Fairfield Public Library

Present: Misty Beyer, Mary Hogue, Alyssa Israel, Nancy Jessup, Sarah Levy, Ken Placko, Geoff Steadman		
Absent: Maureen Graney		
Agenda Item	Discussion	Actions To Be Taken
Review of Minutes	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unanimous approval.
Seminars of Interest	Thursday, February 9th and 16th: FOI/Robert's Rules Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alyssa will attend FOI/RR training on behalf of the Fairfield Forestry Committee (FFC).
	Sunday, February 19th: Pesticides on School Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ken will send out info about this seminar to the Board.
	Monday, March 19th: American Chestnut featuring Dr. Sandra Anagnostakis at the Fairfield Public Library. "Dr. Sandy" has been studying how to make the American Chestnut resistant to blight. By the early 1940s, the American Chestnut was almost totally wiped out by an Asian bark fungus. Up until then, chestnut trees were an important source of hardwood and food.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alyssa will help Misty with the press release and flier for this program.
	Friday, April 20th: Fairfield's Arbor Day Celebration at Hoyden's Hill. The town will plant 20 American Chestnuts at the Parsell property. One will be planted at the ceremony on Arbor Day. An additional 80 American Chestnuts will be planted on town property. This endeavor must be approved by the Conservation Commission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geoff will write a letter of support to the Conservation Commission regarding the planting of 100 American Chestnuts on town property. • Alyssa will write a press release for this event as well.
	April 28th: Earth Day at Andrew Warde. Mary said that the exhibitors will be organized into separate sections: Land Use, Building, Water, Transportation, Energy, Recycling, and Food. Fairfield Forestry Committee (FFC) will have a table at Earth Day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misty will make business cards to hand out. • Geoff will work on a tree quiz for Earth Day.
Dr. Jeff Ward Storms, Trees & You Follow Up	Dr. Ward's presentation was excellent. The program was attended by about 25 people. Four attendees signed up to volunteer for the FFC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misty will post a synopsis of the talk on the FFC's Facebook Page.
Invasive Management	Dr. Ward is studying invasives in CT. Misty would like Dr. Ward to speak to the Conservation Commission about the problem of invasive trees in Fairfield. Misty said that Mile-a-Minute, Goutweed, Japanese Barberry are very prevalent in Fairfield. Sarah said that Japanese Barberry is associated with an increased risk of Lyme disease. Misty had left a message for Ed Jones but had not	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary said she would ask Ed Jones about getting invasive trees on the Conservation Commission agenda. • Mary volunteered to head up an Invasive Tree Subcommittee.

	yet heard back from him.	
Merrit Parkway Tree Trimming	DOT is trimming many trees between Congress Street and Westport. There are lots of invasive trees on the Merritt Parkway.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question: Do Rachel and Chris from DEEP provide oversight of this tree trimming?
Fairfield Tree Survey	Nancy Jessup has been entering the data from the tree surveys into an Excel spreadsheet. Many of the surveys were not completed properly and consistently. Eventually the Excel data can be imported into Itree, a statistical GIS software program that is free to download. Rachel from DEEP will help us.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The survey will be completed in the spring. An April re-training of the volunteers will be held to improve tree ID and completion of the survey forms.
Commemorative Tree Program	Misty called all 6 of the people who signed up for the Commemorative Tree Program. She would like to encourage more people to plant trees through the program. Alyssa said that the plaques at Independence Hall need to be more visible. Nancy Jessup suggested a wall art contest. Brochures about the program could be displayed next to the plaques.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A press release should be sent to the local press about the Commemorative Tree Planting program.
Notable Trees	Misty has a list of notable trees in Fairfield, most of which are on private property. The list needs to be updated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misty will ask Maureen if she can update the list. • Sarah would like to include notable trees on the Path to Health brochure.
Next Meeting		Thursday, March 8th, 2012 at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Alyssa Israel on February 14th, 2012.