

Fairfield Forestry Committee
 March 8th, 2012, 12:30 p.m.
 Final Minutes of the Forestry Committee

Present: Misty Beyer, Alyssa Israel, Sarah Levy, Ken Placko, Mary Hogue		
Absent: Geoff Steadman, Maureen Graney, Nancy Jessup		
Agenda Item	Discussion	Actions/Motions/Votes
Review of Minutes	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unanimous approval.
Seminars	<p>Past: Tuesday, February 28 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Darien Town Hall: Power Struggle: Balancing the Needs of People, Power and Trees. Mary reported that over 150 people were in attendance. Attendees heard from several stakeholders' representatives including Joe McGee, a Fairfield resident and member of the Governor's Two-Storm Panel, and the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (who resigned the following day). Different perspectives on the reliability of our power supply, power outages - past and future, and what can be done to reduce the frequency and duration of power outages were discussed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The panel seemed to agree that mini fuel cell generation plants at supermarkets, gas stations, convalescent homes, etc. might be the solution. Burying power lines is too expensive.
	<p>Past: Monday, March 19th: American Chestnut at the Fairfield Public Library featuring Dr. Sandra Anagnostakis. Misty promoted this to the PTAs, Garden Clubs, Media and Maureen posted it online.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alyssa will fix flier and send it to landscapers, RTM and Conservation Committee.
	<p>April 16-30th: The Fairfield Public Library will display the Fairfield Forestry Committee's posters in the hall near the Reference Desk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
	<p>Future: Friday, April 20th: Fairfield's Arbor Day Celebration at Hoyden's Hill at 2:00 p.m. 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.</p>	<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.
	<p>Future: 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Misty will make business cards to hand out. Geoff will work on a tree quiz for Earth Day.

	<p>Future: Saturday, May 19th. Wilton/Norwalk Tree Festival from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geoff will post the FFC display. Volunteers are needed to man the table.
	<p>Future: Proposed FFC Event in May: UI Response to Storms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ken will find UI representative to present at this public meeting.
	<p>Future: June (date tba) The Meskwaka Tree Project at Connecticut College: (Mesk-wa-ka is an Algonquian word meaning Always Green) is a training and outreach program for urban and community forestry citizen volunteers. As a component of the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System urban and community forestry program, the Meskwaka Tree Project provides training, resource materials and support to selected volunteer community leaders, innovators and activists so they may develop new or enhance existing programs and organizations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misty attended the Meskwaka Tree Project training 4 years ago at Connecticut Collge. She encouraged FFC members to attend this coming June. For further information, call (860) 570-9257.
Fairfield Tree Survey	<p>More volunteers are needed to complete 43 additional maps.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misty will recruit volunteers at Dr. Sandy's presentation. • Tree ID seminar planned for May. • Ken will purchase 6 <i>Tree Identification Books</i> by George Symonds for the tree ID teams. He has \$500 in grant money which can be used for this purpose.
Town Tree Planting Program	<p>Ken ordered 120 trees for spring 2012 planting; only 50 have been purchased for \$100 each. A Department of Agriculture "Tree Owner's Manual" is given to each homeowner. Ken ordered the following species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small: Dogwood, Lilac, Plum, Cherry, Shadblow. • Medium: Pear • Large: Red Oak, Honey Locust, London Plane, Elm, Sweet Gum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote this program, Alyssa will work on a FAQ brochure like the one we developed for the Commemorative Tree Planting Program. • Misty will send the official letter to homeowners who need street trees (particularly on Congress Street).
Next Meeting		<p>Thursday, April 12th, 2012 at 12:30 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted by Alyssa Israel on April 20th, 2012.