



City of Hartford Tree Advisory Commission
Minutes of Meeting-November 3, 2021

In attendance: Jack Hale (chair), Charmaine Craig (vice-chair), Chris Hayes (commissioner) Heather Dionne (City Forester)

Guests in attendance: Donna Swarr (Chair Colt Park Foundation/PRAC), Edith Pestana (DEEP Environmental Justice Program Administrator/HPC), Chris Goodwin (KNOX), Patrick Doyle (Executive Director KNOX), Kelsey Wentling (CT River Conservancy), Danica Doroski (DEEP Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator), Mark Dowd (City of Hartford DPW Superintendent of Parks), Mary Rickel Pelletier (Park Watershed Org), Rachel Hiskes (City of Hartford Planning Division)

1. September minutes approved unanimously without changes
2. City Forester Report: Heather Dionne sent a written report.
 - Northern contractors have been at Elizabeth Park for 2 weeks doing removal.
 - DPW crew has cleared interior road of Keney Park as well as dead trees from Ridgefield to Vine St. Perimeter work, oak tree w police detail to accompany.
 - At Goodwin Park DPW bucket truck is working along the FIT trail, flagging dead trees
 - SAND School tree planting celebration, special thanks to KNOX, Jack and Charmaine.
 - PRFCT working group for developing “(Policy on Resilient Forests for Connecticut’s Future,” involving legislators and Chris Martin, State Forester
 - Homeowner visit to Edward St for invasive bamboo. Provided education on containment on private property.
 - Safety workshop in New Haven @ Lighthouse Point with CT Tree Wardens and Eversource. Covered electrical safety, chipper safety, stop the bleed. tourniquets.
 - Sustainability Core Team: Working group with Shubhada and Nat Gale. Has a goal of planting 3000 trees annually. Will hold monthly meetings
 - Mulched tree pits on Albany Ave
3. Funding Opportunities: upcoming; <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-Urban-Forestry-Grants>
 - Upcoming November deadline for applications for funding 501c3 status required; 2 rounds for funding of sourcing, Feb is second; (\$10,000-37,000)

- Danica D. Urban Forestry Coordinator from DEEP contact
- UConn has funding opportunity in March; 2 yrs of funding
- CT Urban Forest Council, state deadline spring:
<https://cturbanforestcouncil.org/grants/community-small-grants/> (Heather D is Chair of Council) \$2000 max request; 50% match
- KNOX via Ex Director informed that they will be applying for funding opportunities
- Colt Park Foundation is interested in applying and also pursuing final steps of 501c3 status

4. Private Hazard: Chair has question for Corp Council liaison Del Visco regarding municipal liability of hazard trees located on private property. Mr. Del Visco is out ill.

- a. City Forester shared an example of a hazard tree case: dead Ash on Niles St, issued a letter, 10 days no response. L & I had phone number for owner; phone conversation w owner; certified mail unanswered, Director DPW reached out and tree removal is imminent & I had phone number for owner but phone conversation didn't result; certified mail unanswered, Director DPW reached out and tree removal is imminent.

5. Brainard Airport

Town of Wethersfield, Town Council met to consider a resolution supporting closing of the airport. Although Htfd City Council has supported closing of the airport, Wethersfield Town Council didn't approve any resolution for closure, but approved resolution against tree removal and encouraging airport authority to make sure pilots follow flight path over river. FAA cited CT Airport Authority for trees in flight path.

6. Mary Rickel Pelletier: Park Watershed presentation on trees in riparian watershed along Park River, specifically North Branch, real estate practices, green infrastructure, founding /funding of organization; conservation and sociological effects of redlining, heat island effect of low forestry in Htfd

Proposed Municipal Ordinance:

Commission discussed Park Watershed draft resolution for conservation area/park along the North Branch of the river. Noted that many lands are already publicly owned; the City of Htfd owns undeveloped land between Homestead and Scarborough, and 61 Woodland belongs to the state of CT, University of Hartford has river frontage, and Hartford Seminary has been good steward, leaving land without disturbance. These lands are under Flood Commission purview; between Homestead/Scarborough is last landscape without intervention. Urban Forestry Coordinator Danica Doroski noted that carbon storage along riparian corridor provides natural regeneration as opposed to street trees, unique aspects of corridors make it important to flag spaces like North Branch.

7. Keney Park Adaptation Assessment Project: report is due, but news is that work/COVID woes will delay a report until late winter or early spring. New England Forestry Foundation sponsored this study.

- Additional points City Forester: MDC fire hydrants in Keney Park are working, forest fires, drought has been causing unexpected tree failures, challenges of climate change on urban forest
- Smaller trees, container trees, no new trails in city parks, staking trees for keeping em

NEW ITEMS

8. Olmstead 200: is Tree Commission doing any events?
9. Commission is awaiting reports from Dan Burns Eversource, Charter Oak Landing tree removal under high voltage power lines, presentation in future meeting. Scheduled for December meeting
10. Chris Goodwin from KNOX, Shared an event at Pope Park West, this Friday 11/5 10-1pm tree planting, more volunteers needed

CLOSE @ 1pm

11. Charmaine Craig invited everyone go outside, tree foliage is brilliant