

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Ridgefield Tree Committee

September 9, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.

66 South Street, Ridgefield

This is a Summary of the Activities of the Committee and not a verbatim transcript

In attendance:

Members: Tom McManus (Chair), Ryan Bossis, Paul Shotton, Anthony Tufariello

Tree Warden: Steve Lavatori

Public: (arrived 6:55pm) Todd Forrest

Absent Members: Robert Roth, Kitsey Snow

Tree Warden's Report

Continued progress on removing dead Ash trees near town highways and other town properties. Rough estimate is 75% of necessary Ash removals have been accomplished. Discussion ensued regarding a) dead Sugar Maple trees on the West side of Main Street between the Market Street intersection and St. Stephen's Church, b) dead Ash trees on Danbury Road near Limestone and c) along North Salem Road near the High School. All have been reported to CT-DOT and/or Eversource.

Approval of Tree Committee Minutes from Prior Meetings

Mr. Shotton moved and Mr. Tufariello seconded a motion to approve the draft minutes of the June 3 2024 meeting. Motion passed: 3-0-1, with Mr. Bossis abstaining.

Upcoming Meetings

Next meeting is Monday, October 7th at 6:30pm. The Committee discussed the upcoming meeting schedule; whether to consider another day of the week, week of the month, meeting time. Mr. Lavatori and others suggested they would prefer Tuesday meetings over the current Monday schedule. All agreed to table the discussion until absent members' preferences could be considered.

Finances

As a recap, private donations for Main Street Tree Planting amounted to a little over \$27k; So far this calendar year, we spent about \$11k on 16 trees planted in mid-June.

Update: Main Street Tree Planting Project

In addition to the remainder of prior donations, Ridgefield Rotary is also raising significant contributions for planting new trees along Main Street and other Ridgefield gateways. Postcards will be mailed soon to most households in the Town.

Mr. Lavatori observed that planting in some areas would require tree and stump removals to place new trees in appropriate locations.

A wide-ranging discussion ensued with Mr. Forrest, who has expressed an interest in joining the Committee as an appointee of the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Shotton moved, and Mr. Tufariello seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:48pm. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom McManus, Chair