

Minutes of a meeting of  
The Old Lyme Tree Commission  
July 19, 2012

**Attendance:**

Regular members present: Joanne DiCamillo, Anne Bing, Gerry Foster

Alternate members present: Joan Flynn

Regular members absent: Emily Griswold

Ex-officio members absent: Tom Degnan, Tree Warden

A quorum being present, Chairman Joanne DiCamillo called the meeting to order at 4:05 P.M.

**REPORTS**

**Clerk's Report – The minutes of the 6/21/12 meeting were reviewed.**

**MOTION:** Joan Flynn moved, seconded by Gerry Foster, to accept the June minutes as presented. All present voted in favor. Motion carried.

**BUDGET REPORT**

**Balance**

Mrs. DiCamillo reported that as of 7/16/2012, the balance in the General Fund (Tree Commission and Public Works) was \$13,760.

**NEW BUSINESS Lymes' Senior Center – request for tree trimming**

Mrs. DiCamillo spoke with Don Tapper and Barbara Blackwell, who is a board member at the Lymes' Senior Center. The spruce and pine trees growing along the front fence at the Senior Center have grown very large. They need pruning and removal of the vines that are growing on them. In addition, there are deciduous trees that need trimming. Lyme and Old Lyme share the facility and the maintenance costs. Mrs. DiCamillo contacted First Selectwoman Reemsnyder to determine the procedure to follow. Mrs. DiCamillo volunteered to meet with Ms. Blackwell to evaluate and discuss the work.

**Sill Lane & Route 1 – dead dogwoods & request for planting**

A resident reported two dead/dying dogwoods at the intersection of Sill Lane and Route 1 and asked that they be removed and new trees planted. The members agreed that the trees should be removed; however, the site is very small, surrounded by the asphalt roadbed and very exposed to the elements plus salt and sand from the snow that is piled there in winter. The members decided not to replace the trees.

**Tree Commission annual report**

Mrs. DiCamillo will write and submit the report. The deadline date is in early September.

**OLD BUSINESS Town Hall new plantings – maintenance & watering**

Because of the recent prolonged period without rain, Mrs. DiCamillo requested through the selectmen's office that the Public Works Dept. turn on all of the soaker hoses to water the new foundation plantings at town hall. She also suggested watering all of the trees and shrubs around the perimeter from a truck using water tanks.

### **Town Hall – elm tree evaluation**

The elm tree seems to be in decline and is being monitored for Dutch elm disease.

### **Care of Trees – annual Dutch Trig treatment**

Mrs. DiCamillo contacted Care of Trees about the overcharge on the bill for treating the elm trees with Dutch Trig. The invoice charge was \$610 for the treatment of 6 trees. In fact, only 5 trees were treated this year because one of two elms in front of town hall died last year and was removed. The surviving elm starting dying back in early spring before it was treated in June and, since that time, has shown rapid decline.

Care of Trees claims to evaluate all of the trees before treatment. The bill will not be paid until the invoice amount is adjusted. At the June meeting the members voted to discontinue the Dutch Trig treatment in the future. Dutch Trig is advertised as having a 99% success rate but, if the remaining elm is diagnosed with DED, losing two elm trees in one year certainly does not substantiate that claim.

### **Lyme St. firehouse – screening of new transformer onsite**

The Historic District Commission has requested that the transformer be screened. The members will meet at the firehouse to look at the transformer and decide on screening.

**Motion:** Joan Flynn moved, seconded by Gerry Foster, to adjourn the regular business meeting at 4:40 P.M. to the firehouse to look at the transformer area and decide on screening. All present voted in favor, motion carried.

The members looked at the immediate area near the transformer and found there is not enough room to plant due to the fact there are two pipe-like structures close-by. They discussed planting several small shrubs or one tree between the transformer and the dogwood tree on the Lyme Street side.

**Motion:** Anne Bing moved, seconded by Joanne DiCamillo, to plant ilex in between the two dogwood trees near the transformer. All present voted in favor, motion carried.

### **MEMBERS' REPORTS - none**

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The members will meet at Town Hall on Thursday, August 16, at 4PM to prune the Town Hall shrubs (weather permitting).

### **REMINDER - Next Meeting**

Next scheduled meeting is on Thursday, September 20, 2012 at 4 P.M. at the Town Hall.

The commission does not meet in August.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Gerry Foster moved, seconded by Joan Flynn, to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 P.M. Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Hansen

Clerk