Tree Warden Public Hearing
Special Meeting Agenda
September 30, 2020
6:00 p.m. Council Chambers, City Hall
With WebEx Access

Staff Present: Raymond Rogozinski
Jason Morrocco
Jeffrey Steeg
Richard Lacey
Janet Letourneau

1. Call to order

Raymond Rogozinski, Tree Warden opened the Public Hearing at 6:01 p.m.

2. Presentation of request for removal of multiple trees in West Cemetery at 49 Pound Street

Timothy Furey, 43 Bellevue Avenue, Bristol, CT; West Cemetery Association, addressed those present with the reasons as to why the West Cemetery Association requested trees be removed or pruned. The health and safety of the trees within the Cemetery was first addressed several years ago. Key concerns are: A. safety of the public and staff, B. safety of some of the monuments, which are irreplaceable. The City was able to receive a grant to perform the work and take the financial burden off of the West Cemetery Association and the City.

3. Information on Health of Trees

Jason Morrocco, Deputy Tree Warden presented the revised assessment of the trees marked for removal.

Janet Letourneau, recording secretary, read into record those who protested the removal of trees: Kathy Ferrier, Jay Manewitz, Sandra Sehl, Paul Hunter, and John Schissler.

4. Public Comments

Raymond Rogozinski, Tree Warden, invited those who requested to speak to come forward.

Kristie Arbesman, 30 Barnes Hill Road; contested the removal of tree and #27 & #28. Her grandparents are buried in West Cemetery and picked that specific location. Their gravestones are directly underneath tree's #27 & #28. Visited the Cemetery and feels personally those trees do not need to be removed, feels we need to preserve the environment. Also, reviewed 6,9,22, 41 do need to come down.

Kathy Ferrier, 481 Matthews Street; Bristol, CT; Licensed Arborist for 25 years. Asked how much staff does the West Cemetery have?

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Attorney Furey stated they have 3 full time staff but more in the summer, also we have a lot of visitors and the safety of staff and the public is our concern.

Kathy Ferrier listed the trees she had issues with 15,17,18,20,25,26,28,36,40,49. She is disagreeing with 11 trees on the list. They are all about 200 years old. Could the grant money be used to cable some of the trees, or trim the trees? Disagrees with some of the wording, leaders versus limbs. #28 which is over her grandfather's grave has dead limbs not leaders and virtually very little canopy die back. #15 large tree in good condition/versus few rot holes. #18 Amazing tree could be over 200 years old, some of the canopy is died back, and canopy is fine. #20 did not see v rotting out. They are mature trees and the canopies are fine. Many of the trees could be on the notable trees list.

Tim Gamache, 1389 Stafford Avenue #311, first of what does weeping mean?

Jason Morrocco stated that when you look at the base of the tree where sap or water is coming through.

Tim Gamache, we are stewards of our environment, concern is the removal of trees based on expediency.

Linda Arbesman, 125 Hill Street, Member of Cemetery Commission, picked out about 6 trees that should come down, hope that the grant money would be used to trim the trees and also help maintain the other Cemeteries in Bristol, Downs, Lake Avenue and Lewis Street.

Paul Hunter, 56 Stevens Street, he does agree that some trees do need to come down about 8, but not 29. The other could be trimmed. Asked if the Tree Warden and Deputy Tree Warden were certified arborist?

Mr. Rogozinski stated that we Certified Tree Wardens per the State Statue, not Arborists. Certified by State Statue to identify diseases trees.

Timothy Furey, stated that once this process is done The West Cemetery Association will be able to go in and replant trees.

Brittany Barney, City Councilmember, as liaison to the Cemetery Commission. We are stewards of or environment and there were many great points brought up by everyone and I hope they will be put into consideration. Appreciates that Mr. Furey stated that there will be replanting's as well.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu clarified that the City has been in communications with West Cemetery Association. The cost to do this project was so high due to sensitivity of the area's where the trees would need to be removed and the time of equipment that would be needed so it was put on the back burner. It came to our attention this year that there was a LoCIP Grant for tree maintenance and removal. On behalf of the City Council we do pride ourselves in preservation. We are very concerned for all Cemeteries. We are all here tonight to preserve our landscape. We got involved because of the money, we through our bid process have been in communication with a contractor. Addressed the West Cemetery on the possibility to wholesale the cutting of trees in the future.

Mr. Furey stated that our board takes the upkeep of the Cemetery seriously and personally.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu suggested to the Association come up with a preservation plan that can be in place for years to come.

Mr. Rogozinski stated based on the State Statue a decision must be made within three business days and will be posted on the City's Website. The Appeal process is through the court system, not our local government.

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5. Adjournment

The Public Hearing was closed by the Tree Warden at 6:59 p.m.

6. Signature

Raymond Rogozinski

Due to COVID Restrictions Contact Public Works at 860-584-6125 to reserve in person participation

Meeting number: 132 746 9606
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Department of Public Works | 860.584.6125

REQUEST TO REMOVE TREES
BY
WEST CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

TREE WARDEN – DECISION

October 5, 2020

In accordance with State Statute 23-59a, a hearing was conducted on September 30, 2020 to hear the request by the West Cemetery Association to remove trees at the West Cemetery located at 49 Pound Street. The hearing was conducted at Bristol City Hall, Council Chamber located at 111 North Main Street at 6:00 PM.

The purpose of the hearing was to receive information and receive public comments regarding West Cemetery Association's request for the removal of 52 trees at the West Cemetery. The trees were posted in accordance with the requirements of State Statute 23-59a on September 16, 2020. Each tree posting included a number for identification/reference purposes and corresponded to the attached map titled "West Cemetery -Tree Location/Tree Warden Decision Map", dated October 5, 2020.

The hearing was conducted by Raymond A. Rogozinski, City of Bristol Tree Warden, Certified by the Tree Warden Association of Connecticut. The West Cemetery Association was represented by Attorney Timothy Furey. Public comments were provided by Kristie Arbesman, Linda Arbesman, Kathy Ferrier, Tim Gamache, Paul Hunter, City Council Member Brittany Barney and Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu.

The role of the tree warden is to balance tree preservation along with public safety and risk of damage. Based on a field inspection of the West Cemetery Trees and information provided at the September 30, 2020 hearing, the following decision/determination has been made regarding tree removal at the West Cemetery:

Tree Posting I.D. Number	Type	Diameter (in Inches)	Tree Wardens - Decision
15	Maple	36	Save/ Keep Tree Authorized to Trim
17	Maple	36	Save/ Keep Tree Authorized to Trim
18	Maple	60	Save/ Keep Tree Authorized to Trim
20	Maple	48	Save/ Keep Tree Authorized to Trim
26	Oak	48	Save/ Keep Tree Authorized to Trim
27	Bass wood	40	Save/ Keep Tree Authorized to Trim

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Tree Posting I.D. Number	Type	Diameter (in Inches)	Tree Wardens - Decision
28	Bass wood	36	Save/ Keep Tree Authorized to Trim
30	Locust	32	Save/ Keep Tree Authorized to Trim
36	Maple	48	Save/ Keep Tree Authorized to Trim
40	Maple	36	Save/ Keep Tree Authorized to Trim
49	Maple	36	Save/ Keep Tree Authorized to Trim
39	Maple	36	Save / Keep(trim tree)
35	Maple	48	Save / Keep (trim tree)
16	Sassafras	48	Save / Keep (trim tree)
13	Maple	40	Save / Keep (trim tree)
5	Maple	30	Save / Keep (trim tree)
7	Sassafras	28	Save / Keep (trim tree)
19	Maple	34	Save / Keep (trim tree)
8	Oak	48	Save / Keep (trim tree)
14	Maple	32	Save / Keep (trim tree)
42	Maple	48	Save / Keep (trim tree)
48	Maple	60	Save / Keep (trim tree)
50	Oak	48	Save / Keep (trim tree)
52	Maple	40	Save / Keep (trim tree)
2	Japanese Maple	18	Save / Keep
12	Japanese Maple	36	Save / Keep
23	Locust	36	Save (trim tree)
24	Locust	38	Save (trim tree)
29	Locust	22	Save (trim tree)
31	Maple	36	Save (trim tree)

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Tree Posting I.D. Number	Type	Diameter (in Inches)	Tree Wardens - Decision
33	Maple	36	Save (trim tree)
34	Maple	48	Save (posting removed)
45	Maple	36	Save (complete trimming of tree)
46	Cyprus	24	Remove - Recommend Replacement Tree
47	Cyprus	12	Remove - Recommend Replacement Tree
4	Maple	36	Remove - Recommend Replacement Tree
1	Maple	40	Remove
3	Maple	28	Remove
6	Sassafras	24	Remove
9	Oak	50	Remove
10	Maple	50	Remove
11	Ash	40	Remove
21	Oak	60	Remove
22	Pine	36	Remove
25	Locust	36	Remove
32	Maple	28	Remove
37	Maple	40	Remove
38	Beach	48	Remove
41	Maple	36	Remove
43	Maple	48	Remove
44	Maple	48	Remove
51	Oak	48	Remove

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Based on the decision, 33 of the 52 trees requested to be removed are not authorized to be cut. The trees designated to be saved (not authorized for removal) will be trimmed. Trimming will consist of the removal of dead wood only.

I would like to make note and make additional comments associated with saving the tree identified as No. 18 – 60 inch diameter oak and No. 49 – 36 inch diameter maple. Tree number 18, the 60 inch diameter maple, does exhibit canopy die back, however the tree is estimated to be over 200 years old and is one of the oldest trees in the City. As a result, removal is not authorized, trimming to remove dead wood is authorized and will reduce risk. In addition, the tree identified as number 49 – 36 inch diameter maple – is not authorized for removal. Based on a tree evaluation, tree 49 is clustered with three high quality trees and serves as protection, therefore removal is not authorized.

As tree warden I also recommend planting replacement trees for the following; Tree 4 38 inch diameter maple and Trees 46 & 46 24 & 12 Diameter Cyprus Trees.

In accordance State Statue 23-59 any aggrieved party (if any) may within ten days, appeal the decision to Connecticut Superior Court.

Raymond A Rogozinski
City of Bristol Tree Warden

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