

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE TOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5, 2026 AT 8:30 A.M.**

ROOM 207/209, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE, CT 06410

Present: William Bonaminio, Patricia Archibald, Maria Colacrai, Susan Dillman, Elizabeth Morin, Joanna Giddings, Jessica Feustal. Don Walsh (Town Council Liaison)

Absent: Jessica Fischer

Staff/Guests Present: Andrew Martelli (Assistant Town Manager), Kevin Norton (FastSigns of North Haven) and John Bajor (Minutes Clerk)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 A.M. by William Bonaminio.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / ROLL CALL / DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The Pledge was recited by all, the roll was taken by John Bajor and a quorum was determined.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no corrections to the previous minutes from July 1, 2026.

MOTION by Jessica Feustal to approve the prior meeting minutes
SECONDED by Susan Dillman, with motion passing by those present.

4. COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Martelli noted that there has been no response on the suggestions made by the TBC with regard to the charging stations in Everybody's (Big-Y) Plaza.

5. SIGN PERMIT REVIEW/SITE PLAN REVIEW

- A. **HAI Group: 189 Commerce Court:** Kevin Norton from FastSigns of North Haven presented plans for a halo lit/soft lighting sign on the property to represent the building in the complex. This has been approved by Town Council and conforms to Cheshire standards.

MOTION by Susan Dillman to approve the HAI sign as proposed.
SECONDED by Patricia Archibald, with motion passing by those present.

6. BUSINESS

- A. **Recommended Street Trees and Shrubs Lists for Subdivisions:** The sub-committee updated the previous draft with new trees/shrubs for commercial properties as well as including the genus name

(attached as the Town is rewriting subdivision regulations).. This list will be forwarded to the Planning Department for new subdivision records.

MOTION by Patricia Archibald to recommend submission of the tree and shrub lists as proposed.
SECONDED by Jessica Feustal, with motion passing by those present.

B. Town Hall Courtyard Update: Tabled until next meeting when Jessica Fischer is present. Susan Dillman to inquire if any remaining funds from Cheshire Nursery are available.

C. Mugwort Control – Drainage Bartlem Park: Mugwort in the park has not been pulled (removed) as of this meeting with comment there is more Mugwort, grass and potentially Tree of Heaven plants than wildflowers. Susan Dillman recommended to mow now and then next year scrape the area and re-seed wildflowers. Recommendation to put regular mowing on DPW schedule so doesn't grow high. Joanna Giddings recommended a DPW representative attend next meeting to discuss progress. Also, recommendation to draft a job description for a horticulturalist reporting to Public Works if a position becomes available. Action for Andrew Martelli to start discussion with Town members for support of this proposal. Don Walsh noted that the job description also covers activities during the winter season.

D. Town of Cheshire- Tree Warden Discussion: Dan Bombero is currently the Cheshire Tree Warden. This position is governed primarily by Connecticut General Statutes, with the Town having discretion over who is appointed and how the position is structured. The term is 2 years and more information can be found in the attachment. Andrew Martelli noted that Eversource will contact Dan when removing large trees but not during routine pruning.

7. **STAFF REPORT:** Susan Dillman stated the Garden Club submitted a 1-pager for an upcoming book on Cheshire Celebrates America's 250th Anniversary. The goal is 250 pages and currently have 60. Susan recommended the TBC prepare a 1-pager on the committee's activities.

8. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

MOTION by Patricia Archibald to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 A.M.
SECONDED by Susan Dillman with motion passing by those present.

Attest:



John Bajor, PhD

Botanical Name	Common Name	Characteristics
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red maple	40-60 ft tall, 30-50 ft spread, tolerates periodic flooding and drought, moderate salt tolerance
<i>Acer x freemanii</i>	Freeman maple	40-70 ft tall, 20-50 ft spread, high aesthetic value, tolerates periodic flooding and drought, moderate salt tolerance
<i>Acer x freemanii 'Armstrong'</i>	Armstrong red maple	40' to 60' tall, columnar growth habit (15-25 ft spread), moderate tolerance of drought and salt
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Serviceberry	15-30 ft tall, 15-20 ft spread, high aesthetic value, tolerates periodic flooding, drought, salt, and soil compaction
<i>Betula Nigra</i>	River birch	40-70 ft tall, 40-60 ft spread, high aesthetic value, tolerates periodic flooding, salt, and drought
<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	Paper birch	50-70 ft tall, 25-50 ft spread, tolerates periodic flooding, salt, and drought
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry	40-70 ft tall, 30-50 ft spread, tolerates salt, compaction, and drought
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering dogwood	15-30 ft tall, 15-30 ft spread, high aesthetic value, tolerates periodic flooding and light shade, moderate salt and drought tolerance
<i>Crataegus viridis 'Winter King'</i>	Winter King hawthorn	25-30 ft tall, 25-30 ft spread, high aesthetic value, tolerates light shade, drought tolerant
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos interimis</i>	Thornless honey locust	30-70 ft tall, 25-50 ft spread, tolerates salt, compaction, and drought
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American holly	15-60 ft tall, 40-60 ft spread, evergreen, moderate tolerance for periodic flooding, drought, and salt. High wildlife value, good as a screen for structures and to buffer headlights.
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip tree	60-90 ft tall, 30-50 ft spread, fast grower, high aesthetic value, good stormwater mitigation, moderate salt tolerance
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black tupelo/black gum	30-70 ft tall, 20-35 ft spread, high aesthetic value, tolerates compaction, salt, and periodic flooding
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	American hop hornbeam	25-40 ft tall, 15-30 ft spread, tolerates salt, compaction, and drought
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Sourwood	20-30 ft tall, 10-15 ft spread, high aesthetic value, tolerates light shade, moderate salt tolerant
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	American sycamore	75-100 ft tall, 40-80 ft spread, tolerates salt, compaction, and periodic flooding. Moderate drought tolerance.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Characteristics
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black cherry	50-80 ft tall, 30-50 ft spread, high aesthetic and wildlife value, moderate salt and drought tolerance
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White oak	60-100 ft tall, 50-90 ft spread, tolerates periodic flooding and drought, less tolerant of compaction, highest wildlife value
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp oak	50-80 ft tall, 50-60 ft spread, tolerates periodic flooding, drought, and compaction, highest wildlife value
<i>Quercus coccifolia</i>	Scarlet oak	60-80 ft tall, 40-60 ft spread, tolerates compaction and drought, highest wildlife value
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin oak	50-70 ft tall, 25-40 ft spread, tolerates compaction, drought, and poorly drained soils, highest wildlife value
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red oak	60-80 ft tall, 30-45 ft spread, tolerates compaction, drought, and salt, highest wildlife value
<i>Tilia americana</i>	American linden	50-80 ft tall, 35-60 ft spread, moderate drought tolerance, low salt tolerance
<i>Tilia americana</i> 'Redmond'	Redmond American linden	40-60 ft tall, 25-30 ft spread, drought tolerant, low salt tolerance

Botanical Name	Common Name	Characteristics
<i>Amelanchier spicata</i>	Running serviceberry	2-6 ft tall, 4-10 ft spread, deer resistant, salt tolerant, drought tolerant
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry	3-6 in tall, 2-3 ft spread, deer resistant, salt tolerant, drought tolerant
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Button bush	3-8 ft tall, 3-6 ft spread, deer resistant, salt tolerant, tolerates standing water
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Sweet coastal pepperbush	3-8 ft tall, 4-6 ft spread, deer resistant, salt tolerant, tolerates standing water
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i> 'Hummingbird'	Sweet coastal pepperbush	2-4 ft tall, 3-4 ft spread, deer resistant, salt tolerant, tolerates standing water
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky dogwood	10-15 ft tall, 10-15 ft spread, tolerates period flooding, moderate deer resistance
<i>Dasiflora floribunda</i>	Shrubby cinquefoil	2-3 ft tall, 2-3 ft spread, deer resistant, salt tolerant, drought tolerant
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Dwarf bush honeysuckle	2-3 ft tall, 3 ft spread, deer resistant, salt tolerant, drought tolerant
<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	Shrubby St. John's wort	2-4 ft tall, 2-4 ft spread, deer resistant, salt tolerant, drought tolerant
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry	5-10 ft tall, 3-8 ft spread, deer resistant, salt tolerant, evergreen
<i>Ilex glabra</i> 'Compacta'	Compact inkberry female cultivar	2-4 ft tall, 3-5 ft spread, deer resistant, salt tolerant, evergreen
<i>Ilex glabra</i> 'Squeeze box' or 'Pretty boy'	Inkberry male cultivars	3-6 ft tall, 3-5 ft spread, deer resistant, salt tolerant, evergreen
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry	6-12 ft tall, 6-12 ft spread, deer resistant, tolerates seasonal flooding, moderate drought tolerance, requires male and female plants for berries
<i>Juniperus communis</i> 'Repanda'	Repanda juniper	12-16 in tall, 3-4 ft spread, deer resistant, salt tolerant, drought tolerant
<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>	Creeping juniper	6-12 in tall, 3-4 ft spread, deer resistant, salt tolerant, drought tolerant
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Mountain laurel	8-20 ft. tall, 5-15 ft wide, slow growing, deer resistant, low salt and drought tolerance, evergreen
<i>Lindera bezoin</i>	Spicebush	6-12 ft tall, 6-12 ft spread, deer resistant, salt tolerant, tolerates standing water
<i>Morella carolinensis</i>	Small bayberry	2-6 ft tall, 3-6 ft spread, deer resistant, salt tolerant, drought tolerant
<i>Morella pensylvanica</i>	Northern bayberry	3-12 ft tall, 5-15 ft spread, deer resistant, salt tolerant, drought tolerant
<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	Swamp azalea	3-5 ft tall, 3-5 ft spread, fragrant, tolerates periodic flooding, moderate deer resistance
<i>Rhus aromatica</i> 'Gro-low'	Fragrant sumac	2 ft tall, 4-6 ft spread, deer resistant, salt tolerant, drought tolerant
<i>Rosa carolina</i>	Pasture rose	2-4 ft tall, 3-4 ft spread, deer resistant, salt tolerant, drought tolerant
<i>Swida sericea</i>	Red twig dogwood	6-12 ft tall, 6-12 ft spread, tolerates periodic flooding, moderate deer and salt resistance
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood viburnum	6-10 ft tall, 4-8 ft spread, deer resistant, salt tolerant, drought tolerant

The Tree Warden position is governed primarily by **Connecticut General Statutes**, with the Town having discretion over who is appointed and how the position is structured. Under **CGS § 23-58**:

- The Tree Warden is appointed for a **two-year term**.
- The appointment is typically made by the **Town Council** (rather than elected).
- The Tree Warden may appoint one or more **Deputy Tree Wardens** if needed.
- Connecticut law does **not** require the Tree Warden to be, a licensed arborist, a certified forester, an ISA Certified Arborist.

However, the law **does require** Tree Warden to complete DEEP-approved training:

- Within **one year** of appointment (or reappointment), the Tree Warden must successfully complete coursework approved by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), covering:
 - Tree biology
 - Tree maintenance and pruning
 - Urban forestry management
 - Connecticut tree laws
- **A Tree Warden who does not complete this training cannot be reappointed.**

The Tree Warden has statutory authority over:

- All public shade trees within town rights-of-way.
- Trees within or overhanging public roads.
- Trees on municipal grounds (unless under another authority such as certain park commissions).

Responsibilities include:

- Determining when public trees should be pruned or removed.
- Protecting public safety.
- Managing tree planting and maintenance.
- Administering appropriated tree funds.
- Enforcing Connecticut tree laws.
- Issuing permits where required.
- Holding public hearings when there are objections to removing or pruning a public tree.
- ISA Certified Arborist (preferred)
- Connecticut Arborist License
- Experience in municipal public works, parks, or urban forestry
- Knowledge of risk assessment, utility coordination, and contract management