

Town of Watertown  
Planning and Zoning Commission  
**Special Meeting**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Minutes**  
**Natural Features and Amenities**

Time: 7:05PM  
Date: January 21, 2009  
Place: Watertown High School Technology Center  
324 French Street  
Watertown, CT

1. Call meeting to order

2. Roll call

Members Present: D. Minnich, C. Mancini, G. Dupliese, D. George

Members Absent: R. Russ, M. Masayda, G. Martin, J. Blais, K. DeMirs,  
R. Rondeau

Others Present: Ruth Mulcahy, Administrator of Land Use  
Chuck Berger, Town Engineer

D. George sat in for R. Russ

3. Hearing of Applications:

C. An application to amend the text of the Watertown Subdivision  
Regulations

Section 5 – Design Standards

5.18. Natural Features and Amenities

5.18.3 Shade Trees Planted by Applicant:

Minnich: I will read the notice: The Planning and Zoning Commission for the Town of Watertown will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at 7 pm at the Watertown High School. Technology Center, 324 French Street, Watertown, Ct. on the following: The town of Watertown regulations section 5 design standards. 5.18 Natural Features and amenities, 5.18.3 shade trees planted by applicant. As a requirement of subdivision approval, the applicant shall plant shade trees on the property of the proposed subdivision, except where, in the opinion of the Commission, existing trees are to be retained by the applicant in sufficient number and location to meet the intent of this section. Such trees are to be planted on both sides of the right of way and within the right of way of the streets within and abutting the subdivision. Where required, one tree shall be planted every 50 feet of frontage along each street. Determination of precise locations for trees shall consider future possible locations of driveways and utility connections. New trees to be provided pursuant to these Regulations shall be approved by the Commission's agent, shall be nursery grown, of specimen quality, balled and burlapped, straight-stemmed, and free from disease. Such trees shall have a minimum trunk diameter (measured 12 inches above ground level), of not less than 2 ½ inches in caliper, and shall be guaranteed (New) by the applicant for growth with a three year cash bond from the time of planting or replanting and deleted is the words from one season's growth by the applicant. At this hearing interested persons will be heard and written communications will be received copies of the text amendments applications are filed in the Planning and Zoning Office, 51 Depot Street, Watertown between the hours of 8am and 5 pm or by appointment or by calling 860-945-5266 and at the office of the town clerk, DeForest Street, Watertown between the hours of 9 am to 5 pm dated Watertown, Ct. this 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 2009 Michael Masayda, Secretary, Planning and Zoning Commission.

Minnich: I have a letter from COG it is dated December 18, 2008. I have read the first two points in the public hearing and #3 says the proposed amendment to section 5.18.3 would require a three year cash bond for planted trees starting the "time of planting or replanting." Staff supports this amendment because it will help ensure that trees required in a subdivision survive.

Are there comments from members of the public or staff?

Berger: The fifth line down begins the second sentence which the existing language reads: Street trees are to be planted on both sides of the right of way and within the right of way.

Within the right of way is not what has been practiced. Our practice has been the streets trees are planted at least 3 feet but no more than 20 feet beyond the right of way. While we are taking the opportunity to modify this section and I also spoke to Mr. Cavanaugh this afternoon and he also suggested modifying the language to reflect what has been the practice of the department. Instead of saying within the right of way the wording is that they be planted at least 3 feet but no more than 20 feet from the edge of the right of way.

Mancini: I do not have a problem with that.

Minnich: Any comments or questions from the public?

5.18.3 Shade Trees Planted by Applicant: As a requirement of subdivision approval, the applicant shall plant shade trees on the property of the proposed subdivision, except where, in the opinion of the Commission, existing trees are to be retained by the applicant in sufficient number and location to meet the intent of this section. Such trees are to be planted on both sides of the right of way and within the right of way of the streets within and abutting the subdivision. Where required, one tree shall be planted every 50 feet of frontage along each street. Determination of precise locations for trees shall consider future possible locations of driveways and utility connections. New trees to be provided pursuant to these Regulations shall be approved by the Commission's agent, shall be nursery grown, of specimen quality, balled and burlapped, straight-stemmed, and free from disease. Such trees shall have a minimum trunk diameter (measured 12 inches above ground level), of not less than 2 ½ inches in caliper, and shall be **guaranteed (New) by the applicant for growth with a three year cash bond from the time of planting or replanting.**

**(Deleted)** for one season's growth by the applicant

Text of Motion: Close public hearing  
Motion made by: G. Dupliese  
Seconded by: D. George  
Aye: 4 Nay: 0

Michael Masayda \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary