

Date: December 25, 2021

To: Town Council, Town of Coventry

From: John Elsesser, Town Manager

Subject: Forestry Advisory Committee - Sustainable CT

As you all know, the Town of Coventry has earned itself a Silver Certification for Sustainable CT, a state launched program to promote certain actions that municipalities can take to boost their economies and environmental efficiency, arts and culture support and affordability in town.

The Town of Coventry is currently working towards our Sustainable CT re-certification. In an effort to not only earn more points towards maintaining the Silver Certification, but also plan for and implement projects to increase tree cover and enhance tree, forest and woodland health; I urge that Town Council to consider implementing a Forestry Advisory Committee.

The purpose of a Forestry Advisory Committee is to advise the Town Council on tree-related issues and promote awareness of tree care, Coventry's arboreal heritage and benefits of environmental protection while inspiring learning and fostering a more sustainable way of living.

While the Forestry Advisory Committee will report to municipal leadership, it does not require formal appointment. In an effort for this committee to work efficiently, I recommend this committee be comprised of solely town employees. A few examples of such committee members include the Town Manager, Director of Public Works and the Coventry Tree Warden.

Enclosed you will find Sustainable CT's requirements in forming a Forestry Advisory Committee, recommended committee members and potential purpose & goals of this committee. Please take your time and review the Forestry Advisory Committee information for consideration.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact my office at jelsesser@coventryct.org or (860) 742-6324.

Thank you,



John Elsesser
Town Manager
Town of Coventry

Forestry Advisory Committee

Objective

Plan for and implement projects to increase tree cover and enhance tree, forest, and woodland health.

What to Do

1. Establish a Forestry Advisory Committee (FAC). The Committee will report to municipal leadership, but does not require formal appointing. Members could include the municipal tree warden, local volunteers, nonprofit organizations, councils of governments, and local organizations. The FAC might also engage a state Certified Forester. An existing forestry commission or similar entity may serve as the FAC, but should consider broadening representation to include the stated list. **(5 points)**

Submit: A list of members of the Forestry Advisory Committee and the date of the most recent meeting.

Committee Members:

1. Town Manager – John Elsesser
2. Director of Planning and Development – Eric Trott
3. Town Engineer/Inland Wetlands Agent – Todd Penney
4. Coventry Tree Warden – Mark Owens
5. Director of Public Works – William Watkins
6. Director of Parks & Rec – Wendy Rubin

- Purpose: the Town of Coventry's Forestry Advisory Committee, in partnership with Coventry's Protected Spaces Stewardship Committee, advice the town council on tree-related issues and promote awareness of tree care, Coventry's arboreal heritage and benefits of environmental protection while inspiring learning and fostering a more sustainable way of living.
- Goals:
 - Maintain a healthy and diverse tree and shrub population.
 - Provide opportunities for residents to learn proper tree care practices.
 - Provide safe and beautiful trees for the benefit of the community and our visitors.
 - Utilize best management practices to ensure the health of our tree population and the safety of our tree care workers.