

Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Commission

Special Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2025

2:00 Chaplin Town Hall

1. Call to Order: Chair Helen Weingart called the meeting to order at 2:05. Present were Helen Weingart, Dave Stone and Leslie Ricklin
2. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2025. Leslie moved, Dave seconded to approve the minutes. So moved.
3. Discussion:
 - a. Update on status of new addition to the Arboretum, Pollinator Pathway.

The Commission must address 3 things: funding, consulting an expert, and planting something now. Helen presented the members with examples of trees and shrubs that are native and pollinators. Dave suggested that we plant a couple of “big, stately” trees to begin to populate the bare space. He agreed to research some examples such as: Chestnut Oak, Catalpa, Cucumber Tree. He’ll also check to see what is available and the costs. It was agreed to search for more professional help in selecting plantings. Helen will check with UCONN and Leslie will call Faith Kenton, Windham Garden Club member.

Helen suggested that we buy some wildflower seeds to sew in the area. Dave moved, Leslie seconded to spend up to \$200 on seeds. So moved. The Commission will organize a work party to help sew the seeds.
 - b. Consult with Jordon, the NECOGG/Chaplin grant writer, to investigate options for funding of the Pollinator Pathway,

Jordon met with members and suggested some options which would be appropriate for our project: the Urban Green Community Garden, the Environmental Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, the Urban Forestry Grant, and SustainableCT. He will contact Helen in the fall to talk about applying for grants.
 - c. Select an official name for the new addition.

After a brief discussion “The Bicentennial Pollinator Pathway” was agreed upon.
 - d. Update Tree Health and Replacement List: Dave will update his spreadsheet, but announced that the Holly, Tupelo, and White Oak must be replaced and that will happen in the fall.
 - e. Status of tree markers: Dave said that these will be finished by the end of June and that we will receive the invoice. Dave moved, Leslie seconded, to approve up to \$200 to make an additional sign to be attached to Brian Cohn’s signpost at the Park. So moved. Helen will follow up by ordering the sign. The Commission will organize a work party to apply tree markers when they arrive.

- f. Discussion of 2 memorial trees: Theriaque maple: Dave has the plaque and will put it in a cement base; Smith cinnamon flake maple: Dave will confirm that the tree is in good health and Helen will let Steve Smith know.
 - g. Discuss education options offered by Ed Smith, Science Biologist, for Arbor Day, 2026. Helen will follow up with Smith to ask him to offer a program at the Park where he can make the connection between bark samples and our tree collection.
- 4. The next meeting will be on **July 22, 2025**.
 - 5. Meeting adjourned at 3:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Ricklin, Secretary