



## ***Legislative & Rules Committee – Board of Representatives***

Phil Berns, Chair

Sean Boeger, Vice-Chair

# **Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, August 27, 2025

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Place:** *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Legislative & Rules Committee met as indicated above. Present were Chair Berns, Vice Chair Boeger, and Committee member Reps. Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Pierre-Louis, Sherwood, and Vandervoort. Absent/excused: Rep. Blank. Also present were ex-officio Reps. de la Cruz, Goldberg, Ley and Walston, city staff members Cynthia Anger, Chris Dellaselva and Dana Lee, City attorneys; Melanie Hollas, Chair, Parks & Recreation Commission; Nette Compton, President & CEO, Mill River Park Collaborative, and members of the public.

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Invitee(s) or Designees
1. <a href="#">LR31.106</a>	<b>ORDINANCE</b> ; Amending Chapter 227 of the Stamford Code of Ordinances to Establish a Comprehensive Tree Preservation and Urban Forestry Program 08/06/2025 – Submitted by Reps. Sherwood and de la Cruz <b>08/27/2025 – Proposed amendment approved by Committee 6-0-2</b> <b>08/27/2025 – Approved as amended for public hearing by Committee 8-0-0</b>	<b>APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION &amp; PUBLIC HEARING 8-0-0</b>

Chair Berns opened the meeting and asked for a motion to bring Item No. 1: LR31.106 to the floor. Rep. Sherwood gave a brief introduction regarding the draft ordinance, stating the background research, timelines, and history behind the need to introduce the proposed tree ordinance, and who helped do the work to create the draft ordinance on the floor. She then gave a short [slide presentation](#) on the proposed ordinance. Afterwards, Ms. Compton spoke regarding the ordinance and fielded questions from both Committee members and ex-officio members in the meeting. Ms. Hollas also spoke regarding the proposed ordinance.

Discussion and questions focused mainly on the proposed fees for tree removal for residents.

Attorney Lee sent Rep. Sherwood the following planting option amendments to show to the Committee for discussion and possible vote.

#### **Planting Option 1 Amendment (yellow text):**

**227-7(F)(4)** Inspection and Removal of Legacy Trees. Upon receipt of a complete permit application for removal of a Legacy Tree on Residential Property, the Urban Forester, or designee, shall conduct a mandatory site inspection to verify the Tree's condition and review the removal request with the property owner. The property owner shall retain the right to remove the Legacy Tree, provided that, as a condition of removal, the owner shall either (i) pay Forty Dollars (\$40.00) per inch of DBH to the Tree Fund, or (ii) if the Legacy Tree is on Residential Property, elect the planting option in § 227-7(F)(5) to satisfy all or part of that amount, with any unpaid remainder due at the rate above.

**227-7(F)(5)** Planting Option. For removal of a Legacy Tree on Residential Property, the owner may plant replacement Trees instead of paying the Legacy fee, at a conversion of one (1) replacement Tree for each ten (10) inches of DBH of the removed Tree, rounded up. Each replacement Tree must meet Tree Manual standards, be planted during the first suitable planting season and within twelve (12) months of permit issuance and be maintained/replaced for five (5) years. If on-site planting is not feasible, the Urban Forester may approve planting in the adjacent right-of-way or at another City-designated location.

#### **Planting Option 2 Amendment (yellow text):**

**227-7(F)(4)** Inspection and Removal of Legacy Trees. Upon receipt of a complete permit application for removal of a Legacy Tree on Residential Property, the Urban Forester, or designee, shall conduct a mandatory site inspection to verify the Tree's condition and review the removal request with the property owner. The property owner shall retain the right to remove the Legacy Tree, provided that, as a condition of removal, the owner shall either (i) pay Forty Dollars (\$40.00) per inch of DBH to the Tree Fund, or (ii) elect the planting option in § 227-7(F)(5) to satisfy all or part of that amount, with any unpaid remainder due at the rate above.

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During additional discussion, the committee agreed that Planting Option 2 for proposed Sec. 227-7(F)(4) and (F)(5) was the amendment that had more support.

A motion to amend the draft ordinance with Planting Option 2 amendment was made, seconded and approved via roll call vote of 6-0-2 (Chair Berns and Reps. Blank, Cottrell, Sherwood, and Vandervoort approved; Reps. Matheny and Pierre-Louis abstained).

A motion to approve Item LR31.106 as previously amended for a public hearing was made, seconded and approved via roll call vote of 8-0-0 (Chair Berns, Vice Chair Boeger and Reps. Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Pierre-Louis, Sherwood, and Vandervoort approved).

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| 2. <a href="#">LR31.107</a> | <b>ORDINANCE; for Discussion</b> requiring Net Zero Construction for all new buildings and major commercial renovations, in alignment with the Board of Representatives Climate Emergency <a href="#">Resolution #4130</a> , Mayor's Executive Order <a href="#">EO 005 230417 Climate</a> , <a href="#">Public Act 21-29</a> , and <a href="#">House Bill 5004</a> , which targets statewide net-zero emissions by 2050.<br>08/06/2025 – Submitted by Rep. de la Cruz<br><b>08/27/2025 – Recommitted to Steering 8-0-0</b> | <b>RECOMMITTED<br/>TO STEERING<br/>8-0-0</b> |
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Chair Berns asked for a motion to bring Item No. 2: LR31.107 to the floor. Rep. de la Cruz gave a brief overview on the proposed ordinance, including reviewing how the other quoted legislation (BOR Resolution No. 4130, Mayor's Executive Order EO005 230417, and House Bill 5004) connects to the need to propose this draft ordinance.

A motion to re-commit Item LR31.107 to Steering due to the late hour was made, seconded and approved via unanimous voice vote of 8-0-0 (Chair Berns, Vice Chair Boeger and Reps. Cottrell, Fedeli, Matheny, Pierre-Louis, Sherwood, and Vandervoort approved).

Chair Berns adjourned the meeting at 11:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Berns, Chair

This meeting is also available on video ([Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#))