

October 28, 2020

Dear Editor,

In these turbulent times we would like to share news of a recent event that highlights a community coming together for the common good of the town.

On Saturday, October 24, a group of 20 citizens gathered at Garrison Park in Chaplin to witness the kickoff of a project over two years in the making: Chaplin's Bicentennial Arboretum, a project made possible by the generous contributions of 67 donors. Thanks to the efforts of our Department of Public Works, twenty-two native trees were stationed by their respective pre-dug planting holes. Ten volunteers, gloved and armed with shovels, stood by ready to put their backs and muscles to work. Two bucket loaders to carry soil and mulch were idling. Brief speeches were made by the Arboretum Project Team, the First Selectman, and a representative from *SustainableCT*. Sustainable CT provided the foundation grant that launched our fundraising efforts and provided access to an on-line platform that helped us raise over \$10,000, an amount that far exceeded our original goal. The tree planting proceeded efficiently, expertly, and with everyone enjoying the experience.

Over the next two years we will continue to add to the Bicentennial Arboretum. A culminating event--a grand opening and dedication will occur in 2022. We hope that the *Chronicle* will be on the scene to record it.

Sincerely,

The Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Project Team

Helen Weingart

Dave Stone

Leslie Ricklin