

LANESBOROUGH TREE & FOREST COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING Dec 1, 2014

FOR TOWN CLERK  
TO FILE

Agenda sent via email to Town Clerk Mon Nov 24, 2014 at 6:47PM.

Discussion opened by Robert Fraker at 7:15pm in Lanesborough Town Hall downstairs room.

Present: Robert Fraker, Anne Pasko, Paula Byrdy, Nick DeCandia, Jim Neureuther,

1. MINUTES: Minutes of the 11/24/2014 meeting approved. A signed copy will be provided to Town Clerk.
2. TREASURER'S REPORT: The Revolving Account balance is \$2,322.56. This reflects \$191 payment sent to Dianne Whitman who won the 50:50 raffle and \$100 donation by Alice & Larry Spatz. Thank you was sent. The General Fund Account 100 has a balance of \$275. \$100 donation by Robert & Lilian Fraker was received 12/1/14 and is not reflected in the balance. Thank you will be sent.
3. INCREASING COMMITTEE REVENUES. Jim presented brief history of grants obtained by the Tree & Forest Committee during the period 2004 to 2012. It was agreed that should investigate availability of Grant monies from Mass DCR, Taconic Foundation, Berkshire Bank, Garden Clubs to augment our tree maintenance and planting budget during the Lanesborough 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. Jim prepared a draft Fact Sheet to be used to request an increase in funding from the Town Finance Committee for FY2016. The Committee agreed to a target Budget number of \$1,250. We also discussed the option of selling Buttons in place of the 50:50 Raffle. Buttons would depict King Elmer who also celebrates his 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. Goal is to sell 250 buttons. If only \$2 each, we would realize 2X more revenue than from the past year 50:50 raffle. Nick says that he has a box of unused buttons that might be useful for this. It was noted that there is little communication or contact between the Committee and the Tree Warden. We will extend a specific invite to have the Tree Warden attend our next meeting in order to discuss common interests that can be combined when applying for future grant monies such as using grant money to help beautify town roads by clearing unwanted/overgrown brush and trees.
4. NEWSLETTER. Robert created a draft of a newsletter to be included with the town Census mailing. Jim created a draft flyer to help people know that King Elmer is also 250 years old and is celebrating his birthday along with the town. The flyer also makes the case for seeking \$250 donations to plant trees during this 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary & birthday year. Elements of the newsletter need to be combined with the flyer to create a one page (2 sided) enclosure to be mailed. Anne Pasko will verify with Town Clerk that our insert will be included with the town Census mailing and find out due date. Jim will forward electronic versions of newsletter and flyer contents to Walt Pasko for formatting. Robert will forward a picture of the Jefferson Elm tree that was planted Sept 25.
5. 250<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY TREE PLANTING. The Committee wants to create a lasting remembrance of the Lanesborough Quarter Millennial Celebration for future generations to enjoy by soliciting donations to plant trees along the walking path at Laston Park. A \$250 donation would purchase/plant a commemorative tree with plaque. The Committee would make up the difference if the costs exceed \$250. With a goal of at least 12 donated trees it is hoped that we can get trees at lower cost. Jim will invite Mark Froio of Laston Park to the next meeting to discuss future plans and ensure that the Park is willing to accept more tree plantings and form a plan to identify future tree planting needs. Jim will contact Bob Petricca who expressed an offer to donate multiple trees when he purchased raffle ticket in summer. We also discussed having inexpensive banners made to draw attention to King Elmer's Birthday. Either a lawn banner or a hanging banner. More discussion at next meeting. Anne has obtained vinyl banners at Staples in the past.
6. TEXAS Hold'em. Berkshire Poker will conduct a tournament Jan 25, Sunday. Jim reserved Skyline for Jan 25, 2015 and confirmed the date with Berkshire Poker. We will run it similar to past tournaments. Jim will forward a copy of poster to committee members. In January Jim will post flyers at CJs Bar (Adams), Lanesboro FD and request notice on their sign board, at Stephenentown FD. Anne will post flyers at PO, Old Forge, Lanesboro Market, and Bobs Country Kitchen. Table Setup starts at 11:00. Food set out at noon. Poker Games start at 1:00pm.
7. Tree City Re-Certification. Jim will prepare our annual submission for Re-Certification as Tree City. (will be 10<sup>th</sup>)

8. OFFICERS. Robert Fraker who has been part of the Tree and Forest Committee for nine years will be resigning from the Committee effective this meeting. Robert has been a most effective Chairperson since 2009 and he will be greatly missed. It is with great reluctance that his resignation is accepted. A motion was made and seconded to name Jim Neureuther as Chairperson. Jim accepted with the proviso that he be relieved of Secretary duties. Jim will keep the Treasurer duties along with Chairperson. A motion was made and seconded to name Anne Pasko as Secretary. Anne accepted. Congratulations to the newly appointed officers. It is noted that we need new members. Each current member is asked to actively seek new members from among their town friends and acquaintances.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday Jan 5, 2014 at Library 7pm. Jim will check with the Librarian to put our meeting on their schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Neureuther, Secretary/Treasurer



**To Do List from this meeting:**

Anne check with town Clerk to make sure our newsletter will go out with Census. Find out submission deadline. Praise Walt for helping format the newsletter.

Anne hang flyers for Texas Hold'em Tournament in early Jan

Jim provide Town Clerk with signed copy of Nov meeting minutes. Let town clerk and town secretary know that Jim is Chairperson. Also find deadline to submit Committee report for Town annual report.

Jim put our Jan 5 meeting on Library schedule.

Jim provide Newsletter info (Roberts edited draft as well as pictures & 250<sup>th</sup> King Elmer Birthday info) to Walt Pasko for format/layout.

Jim contact Mark Froio (446-8900) and Bill Girard (cell 446-8700) to invite to Jan meeting

Jim email agenda for Jan 5 meeting to Ruth Knysh ([townclerk@lanesborough-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@lanesborough-ma.gov))

Jim provide committee members with summary of past Grants obtained by Tree and Forest Committee. Jim also review old contact data for grant applications to identify potential areas to seek grant applications.

Jim contact finance committee to find out process for officially requesting a budget increase.

Jim update Committee contact information for next meeting.

Jim deposit donation from Robert & Lillian Fraker into revolving account.

Jim hang flyers for Texas Hold'Em in early Jan

Nick dig up box of loose unused buttons & bring samples next meeting so we can see if we want to make buttons to sell.

Robert forward picture of Jefferson Elm to Jim. Robert collect boxes of historical Committee data for Jim to get.

All: Put Jan 25 Texas Hold'em on your calendars. Make a mental checklist of town friends who might be willing to join the Tree and Forest Committee. Keep eyes open for Grant opportunities.