

Minutes of the Tree & Forest Committee

Monday June 6, 2016

PRESENT: Chairman Jim Neureuther, Secretary Katharine Westwood, Paula Byrddy, Nick DiCandia

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:57 p.m.
2. The minutes of the May 2, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved
3. Treasurer's Report. No change since May 2
 - a. Revolving Account \$5429.75. General Account \$0
 - b. Outstanding expenses: Tree Purchase Elhannon Nursery (~\$142). Tree Identification/Donor signage for Laston & Arboretum & Memorial park
 - c. Town Meeting Tue June 14 at school. Tree & Forest Budget to be set to \$750 annually. Town Report is available. Please attend and support.
4. Fundraising Activity: Texas Hold'em Skyline weekend Nov 12/13 (Sat night or Sun afternoon. TBD). Keep the date.
5. Arbor Day Wrap up. "It was the best day ever." Anna Mello
Adding the hike on the Bradley Trail at Mount Greylock was very successful.
6. Tree Maintenance/Planting/Signage
 - a. Serviceberry (Amelanchier x Grandiflora "Robin Hill") was planted on the Laston Park walking trail by the brook. It was donated by Robert Fraker and his brother in memory of their mother. The tree has light pink flowers in spring, purple berries, orange fall leaves. Elhannon will invoice. Expected cost \$142 or less.
 - b. Jim reported that 13 of 14 Trees planted in 2015 are looking good. The Catalpa appears lost, although it may be re-sprouting from the root. If this is correct, he suggest we leave it and hopefully retrain the new growth or contact Elhannon about cost for a replacement to be done, preferable in fall. The Sugar Maple near the container box has some new growth and may survive damage done by septic truck in past.
 - c. Robert Fraker offered tree/bark mulch from his pile. Trees at Laston, Memorial, and Arboretum need mulch.
 - d. King Elmer. Jim has tried 4 times to contact Race Mt (Ron Yapple) about inoculating the tree. Per earlier comment by Ron Yapple, Jim started removing sod around King Elmer to expose more of root system for injection. Currently waiting for response from Race mt. Kacy will try to connect Jim with Chris Wheeler, a local man who is an arborist, to see if he can help.
 - e. Elm tree at Laston and memorial Elm at town hall were pruned by Jim to remove lower branches prior to leaf out.
 - f. Trees at Arboretum were weeded prior to Arbor Day. Trees at Laston were weeded. More mulch should be placed. Robert Fraker was contacted about obtaining mulch from his wood chip pile. Wood stakes were made and placed around 4 trees at Laston Park to keep mowers from compacting soil or damaging trees. The very next day numerous stakes were broken and run over by mowers. Jim will visit DPW to explain and complain.
 - g. Tree City signs. It was decided that the two remaining signs will go at the entrance to town on Brodie Mt. Rd. and at the Elementary School arboretum. Jim will contact DPW.
 - h. Springside Park has a pruning class on Tue June 14. 5pm

7. Town Holiday Tree

- a. The Committee discussed Samantha Tybrus' request to place a holiday tree on the town green near the Police station. Jim felt that the Tree Committee has no control over who plants trees in town, even on public property. Kacy felt that anything to do with planting or maintaining trees on town property should be reviewed by the Committee. She also said that St. Luke's has put a Christmas tree on its downtown site and each year invites the town to sing carols there, so that is a community tree. Is it an insult to place another tree elsewhere? The Committee voted 3 to 1 to support the new tree placement. Dean Maynard will procure and plant at cost a suitable tree (Frasier fir preferred due to blights that affect spruce), to be paid for by funds Samantha and friends raise. It will be located at Memorial Park near the intersection of Route 7 and Church St. They are hoping to acquire a 12 ft. specimen that will be decorated with lights during holiday seasons. When tree is too large to decorate (after 20-30 yr.), it will be cut & donated & replaced if someone takes up the project.

8. Other Business

- a. Volunteer Time updated
- b. Expenses updated – yet to pay for the Fraker tree (\$142)
- c. Nancy Sommers decided not to join the committee. We need to recruit one or two more members.
- d. Paula will try to find out where Pittsfield got their trees for the “Pittsfield allotment.”
- e. Kacy brought up the previously discussed nature trail to be located in the woods near the old landfill “just so it won't fall off the list.” Jim will contact Bill Girard to seek more information, and perhaps the group can visit the site sometime this summer.

Actions from Previous Meeting

Online Compliance training – still not done. Jim with work with Nick to complete.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48.

Respectfully submitted,
Katharine C. Westwood