

Town of Amherst
Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee
January 7, 2014

Time: 4:00 to 6:00 PM

Location: Town Hall, Town Room

Present: Nonny Burack, Bob Erwin, Henry Lappen, Michael Hutton-Woodland.

Absent: Nancy Higgins

Guest: Melissa Perot; Susan Phillips; Mollie Freilicher, DCR; Scott Merzbach

Agenda

Call to Order: Chair Henry Lappen called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

Approval of December minutes: Bob moves, Nonny seconds to accept minutes as amended. All approve minutes as amended.

Tree Warden's Report (Alan Snow)

- Alan thanked people for tracking down names and telephone numbers for homeowners to possibly receive a tree. More addresses were distributed.
- Alan is back up to full staff now. This year should be a full year for planting trees.
- Harris Street / Fisher – taking down a number of risk trees. New trees will be planted in replacement.
- Pine Street work will continue once the weather clears up.
- Alan has been asked to speak at tree conference at UMass in Spring. March 11.
- Door hangars – Door hangars will be going to printer for February.
- Tree Campus / Tree City USA – Application is underway, needs material for 2013.
- Tracking time for Monthly tree committee volunteer work. Michael will generate
- Other – Maple tree at the corner of Lincoln and Amity was taken down. It was a private tree, but Alan was contacted.
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Chair's Segment (15 min)

- Henry will check on whether Hope and Linzy have submitted resignations so Melissa and Susan can join us.
- Melissa – will review Town committees for overlaps of interest.
- Sustainability Festival Committee

- Arbor Day event with UMass – Friday, April 25.
- Webinars – Susan will follow-up
- Website updates – need to be accomplished.
- Postmaster has no interest in a tree on Kellogg Avenue.
- New APSTC members – see above notes
- Town Tree - Possibility of having a Town tree. Sycamore Plane trees (native to Mass) is a possibility. Alan and Henry will research possible alternatives
- Should we meet in February? Alan might need a tree hearing if he request. We will meet if Alan gets a tree request.

Treasurer's Report - Bob reports \$ 9423 in the bank. No new money has come into the account. Trees coming down on Leverett Road should contribute for a tree replacement.

Poster Contest - Mollie Feileicher, a DCR Dept of Urban and Community Forester. Presented the work of the DCR department. Some areas are: A grant program to complete tree inventory; 2014 Poster Contest for 5th graders– “Trees are Terrific and Good for our Health;” Tree Steward training in October; Arbor Day event and grant opportunity. Asian Longhorn Beetle: Over 33,000 yard trees have been cut down to prevent ALB infestation; it is still in Worcester. Emerald Ash Borer was discovered in Berkshire County last October; now under quarantine. Also beginning infestation in Essex County.

Melissa will review materials for Emerald Ash Borer infestation from Mollie and report back next meeting.

Tree Species Request Lists – Passed out to be completed.

Webinars – Susan – Will review possibilities for viewing. Mollie reported Forestry webinars.com

By Laws changes – Nonny will work with Alan to revise the bylaws; also to determine if money is being paid into the tree account.

Neighborhood Tree Stewards Project (ANTS) - Nothing new. Will be discussed at next meeting.

Kellogg Avenue – Try to get property owners together to replant trees. Tabled for now.

Projects:

- Downtown Tree Planters (Henry and Michael) – nothing to report. Michael is following up.

Other Items not anticipated by the Chair

1. Bob looked at apartment complexes – Colonial Village 216-18 trees, Rolling Green no trees; The Boulders, Echo Village and Brandywine do not need trees. Eagle Properties owns some of them.
2. Nonny will convene a Poster sub-committee. Meeting will be January 16, at 2:00 PM.
3. \$27.43 for an hour for Volunteer work from Independent Sector
4. The New Yorker – article Michael Pollan – the intelligent plant.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michael S. Hutton-Woodland