

**Town Of Amherst  
Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee  
DRAFT Minutes 3/10/15, 4:00 PM**

Location: Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room

Members present: Nonny Burack, Nancy Higgins, Henry Lappen, Susan Phillips

Proposed members: Roger Fega, Shirley Markham

Guests: Charlie Klem and Chuck Dauchy, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity

Approval of Nov, Dec., and Feb. minutes - All of the minutes were approved.

Planting Site proposals: Guests presented a map of 235 E. Pleasant Street near the old Hawthorn farm. The maps represented Habitat for Humanity's next building project, a two-family home. Guests would like trees planted on the site and would like to discuss where they would be planted. They said they would like assistance with which types of shrubs and trees should be planted. They would like more screening than shade trees.  
Time frame: 2015 - 2016

- **Henry** will talk to **Alan** about the request.
- **Alan** will contact the project manager.
- **Henry** will pass information about the request to **Bob**.

Chair Report: Trees have been ordered for South Amherst High School. **Alan** will follow up with the paper work.

Pine St. - Committee made a site visit to Pine Street to discuss the plans for the sidewalk that will be installed soon. Members discussed 5 trees that were in question for downing. The committee proposed some alternatives to cutting down some of the trees, such as putting the sidewalk around a tree or narrowing the width of the sidewalk, in a few places. The committee made the following recommendations:

- 305 Pine Street - 50" pine tree on private property. The committee recommended against cutting down the tree and asking Alan to talk to homeowner (h/o), who wants the town to cut down the tree, about saving the tree and/or telling the homeowner that the town would not cut down the tree since it is on private property.
- Border or 329 and 337 Pine Street - 22" oak. The committee recommended having the sidewalk curve around tree. That would involve asking the h/o for permission to take a small section of the private property. The h/o was present and said she would allow the town to use her property to avoid having to cut down the tree.
- 84 Pine Street - Spruce hedge planted by h/o on town property. The hedge would interfere with the sidewalk unless it is limbed. A 16" maple was also located at the site and the committee suggested the width of the sidewalk be narrowed to save the tree.

- West of 188 Pine - Very large multi stemmed silver maple. The committee recommended narrowing sidewalk to save the tree.
- 80-84 Pine Street - Hawthorne clump on the left side of the driveway. The h/o was present. The committee suggested pruning the Hawthorne. The committee recommended cutting down a Norway Maple and replacing it with another tree. There is a large open field to the right of the driveway and the h/o was not in favor of planting more trees along the edge of the road that fronted the field.

Waiting on the date of the next tree hearing.

New members (?)

- Shirley submitted paperwork and is considering what her role would be with the committee before she decides if she would like to be a member of the committee. Henry explained that committee members can take on projects that interest them. Shirley is interested in education and advocacy.
- Roger did not know if he officially filed the paperwork. He is willing to be an unofficial member of the committee.

Dorie Goldman update - **Nonny** will contact the people involved in the project. **Henry** will talk with Alan about the payment process

Tree Warden's report - Alan was not able to attend the meeting. Henry said the committee would like information on the tree removal payments.

**Henry** and **Nonny** are working on finalizing the letter to tree removal companies and realtors, as well as the card that will be inserted in water bills. **Henry** will bring copies of the finalized letters. **Nonny** will put together a list of addresses.

First Saturday planting - discussed Colonial Village

Poster contest - project tabled

Treasurer Report: deferred (Bob was absent.)

Sustainability Festival (April 25):

- The committee needs a coordinator.
- **Henry** will check on getting an umbrella.
- **Nonny** and **Nancy** will do set up.
- **Shirley** can be there from 2:00 - 5:00.
- **Roger** and **Susan** can be there from 12:00 - 2:00
- **Henry** will cover late afternoon.
- **Roger** and **Shirley** will look into an educational project.
- (?) Prizes will be discussed at next meeting.
- Sign up literature for new planting sites will be available.
- Water bill insert might be available.

Invasive plant removal - deferred

Tree conference:

- Presenter on tree bracing - dynamic speaker.
- Pests and climate change was good. Arborvitae is being threatened by climate change. Abrupt changes from very dry to very wet.
- Dave B. from US Forest Service coordinated a project about a 9 part series of applications for monetizing tree value in urban landscape and urban tree cover. Software allows for different assessments on value, economic impact, water retention, and shade cover. Purpose to save urban canopy by presenting information to towns about the value of trees. Do towns value trees as they do the schools? Discussion about Casey Tree foundation, which is believed to be the richest non-profit organization whose mission is about preservation of trees in urban setting. Discussed how to appraise trees for insurance purposes and values of different type of trees.

Nonny brought 2 neighborhood tree planting posters. **Nonny** will put one poster in the South Amherst library. Other placements are available.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 4:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Phillips