

Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee

DRAFT Minutes 8/11/15

Present: Henry Lappen, (chair), Bob Erwin, Nonny Burack, Nancy Higgins, ` Melissa Perot, and Roger Fega. (Alan Snow on vacation)

Visitors: Scott Merzbach from the Gazette, Gail Santora and Pat Fabozzi from Southampton and Mira Atherton from Mt Holyoke College

1. **Minutes** of 6/9/15 and 7/14/15 were approved with minor corrections.

2. Public comment:

Gail and Pat, two residents of Southampton, explained their concern about the fate of trees in their neighborhood due to development, and their wish to create a tree committee. They were interested in how the Amherst Shade Tree Committee was formed and functions in relation to Town government. Committee members gave information. Henry emphasized the hard work that had been done by Hope Crolius and the incremental progress that has been made over the years.

Mira Atherton would like to observe and participate in APSTC meetings to support her research on the history and value of Trees. She was welcomed.

4. Treasurers report.

Bob reported there was no change and the account balance remains the same. No penalty payments have been made.

5. Chair report

Henry reported that there was no action from the Select Board and no date for the work to be done on the intersection of Montague and Cowls Rds. **Melissa** agreed to contact Gordon Green for any developments.

Shoshana King who had shown an interest in joining the committee was not present. **Henry** agreed to contact her to determine her status in relation to the committee.

Nonny and Melissa , separately visited North Cemetery regarding the hemlock hedge that Alan would like removed. Nonny did not find the hedge to be a problem with regard to the inappropriate use of the area. Melissa remarked that it did provide a screen that could be promoting such behavior. A committee **site visit with Alan** was recommended.

Henry will confirm Dories tree planting for September 17th at 5.00pm

Henry will give his Tree Talk at Crocker farm school in September and will promote the Poster Contest at the same time.

He reported that he had an edict from Town Hall reminding members that they must recuse themselves if they have a conflict of interest with committee business. They also require an annual report and it was agreed he simply submit his excellent report to Town Meeting this year.

Upon request Henry has given our 'letter to Real Estate agents' (sent out with water bill), about tree removal to Lilly Lombard from Northampton Tree Committee.

Melissa reported she had contacted Pastor Lee regarding tree planting in front of the North Church. He made no commitment and Melissa agreed to follow up.

Mira offered to help Nonny with computer in order to send out letter to realtor companies.

6. ANTS

Nancy presented the two applications, one from Shoshona King at Rolling Green with no additional participants named and one involving three families on Potwine Lane. The committee favored the Potwine location based on the educational and neighborhood building objectives of the program. However it was also agreed that the Rolling Green location should have priority for the Saturday planting program next year. Nancy will proceed with contacting Alan to work with neighbors in selecting trees.

7. Saturday plantings

Since the first Saturday frequently conflicts with a holiday it was agreed that tree planting be planned for the second Saturday of the month in future. Colonial Village is the site for 14 trees on September 12th

8. Private parking lot tree planting.

Bob visited Bertucci's and talked to the manager about replacement of two damaged trees. He will follow up in spring.

9. APSTC literature handouts

Bob and Nonny created four handouts from existing information. There was some discussion about wording. Henry will review and work with Mira Atherton on design. Final copies will be distributed to Committee before printing.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:35 **Next meeting Sept 8th at 4:00pm**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melissa Perot