

Tree Committee

November 29, 2011, 5:00 PM, Town Hall

The meeting of the Tree Committee was convened by the town manager, Kevin O'Donnell. All members were present except Abby Schroeder. Joe Sokul, superintendent of public works, also attended. The tree warden, Mike Piretti, could not attend.

The town manager briefed the Committee on the Select Board resolution that created the Committee and on the requirements of state law concerning ethics and open meetings which apply to this Committee and to its members.

The committee elected as its officers: Dennis Gibbons, chair; Craig Okerstrom-Lang, vice chair; Michael Wise, recording secretary. All votes were unanimous. Town staff liaison to the Committee will be Joe Sokul or Mike Piretti.

Three initial areas of review were discussed:

Upcoming plantings: A \$15,000 grant from National Grid will support some replanting. The tree list for these plantings follows the list developed by the *ad hoc* tree group earlier in 2011. Locations were chosen by the tree warden, with some advice from Greg Ward of the *ad hoc* group. The project will likely be put out for bid in January or February, for spring planting.

Tree list prescriptions, generally: The list produced by the tree warden covers species to be planted on public land. A member inquired whether the town should prescribe species for private land, too, because of concerns such as disease control. Issues governing the choice of species include suitability for urban settings (for Main Street) and under power lines.

Inventory: The town does not have a formal inventory of the trees in place. The tree warden has some records of projects, and National Grid has records about what it has removed in tending power lines. Craig Okerstrom-Lang suggested that an inventory might be co-ordinated with the master plan project. Steve Adams noted that an inventory is a potentially large, complex undertaking. He and Lisa Bozzutto will consult and report about how this might be done.

At the next meeting, the Committee will discuss the choice of trees for the Main Street project.

The Committee decided that future meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be on January 4 at 5:15. The town manager will circulate contact information among the members.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Wise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.