

Tree Committee

March 7, 2012 Mason Library

Chairman Dennis Gibbons convened the meeting at 5:16pm. All members were present except Michael Wise. Molly Freilicher (DCR) and Tom Zetterstrom (Elm Watch) were also in attendance.

Minutes of the February 1 meeting were accepted without objection.

New Business: Molly Freilicher offered a presentation on the use of ITree. This is free software (from USFS and Davey Tree Co) that can be used to compile a tree inventory. Software is available for street trees (called Streets). This software uses a PDA or tablet running Windows to collect data electronically. It is also possible to collect data with a pad and paper and enter manually later. Molly can provide help providing planning and training for the inventory. The program is also able to analyze data.

A workshop on how to use ITree will be held in Springfield on April 4th from 9:00am until noon. Information on this training can be found at www.unri.org.

This software is free and will be available for Macs in June.

Fields can be customized. Data typically includes: Species

DBH

Address (or GPS)

Maintenance needs

Condition Class

Site information

Disease/pests

Hazards

Comments

The final product is a spreadsheet. Reports can be run on the inventory and provide information on species composition, age distribution, relative performance index, condition information and importance values.

Craig Okerstrom-Lang suggested tying in with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. Jonathan Hankin said that parcel maps are also available for overlay. Beth Moser mentioned that the town has a senior work off program and some of these people may be available for committee work.

Old Business:

Final Draft for Main St Tree Committee Recommendations: Discussion of reasons for not using a high percentage of Tschonoski Crabapple: 1. avoid a monoculture 2. the trees are too large 3. it is not considered to be a good street tree. In addition there would be high maintenance costs to keep them well pruned. The committee recommends reducing the number by 1/2 and to plant these on the north end of Main St to create a Bosque effect. Other recommendations are to use the Washington Hawthorn instead of Cockspur and to put two Jefferson elms on the corners of Elm and Main St.

The committee officially accepted/approved the revised Recommended Tree List for the Great Barrington Main Street Project (dated 3/7/12).

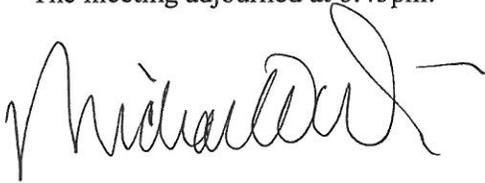
Dennis Gibbons will meet with the design team (Tom Ingersoll and Walt Cudnohufsky) for further discussion.

Discussion began regarding the trees/sidewalks on Gilmore Ave. Joe Sokul has asked whether the committee would recommend removing trees that have buckled the sidewalk. There was discussion about having a sidewalk that goes around the trees and maybe becomes a bump out into the road. This discussion will continue at a later meeting.

For the next meeting consider Arbor Day Projects. Molly Freilicher informs that Arbor Day grants are available through ISA.

The next meeting will be April 4, 2012 at 5:15 in Mason Library.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.