

Tree Committee

March 6, 2013, Mason Library

I. Chair Dennis Gibbons called the meeting to order at 5:18. pm. Present were members Dennis Gibbons, Beth Moser, Lisa Bozzuto, Michael Wise, Olga May Milligan, Maria Ahlin, Steve Adams, Jess Wikle, Hilda Shapiro, Susan Sheridan. Absent: Judith Dillon.

II. Draft minutes from the meeting of January 2, 2012 were modified to correct item IIIF and then approved without objection.

III. New business

A. DCR grant application

Bozzuto described the process. Amounts can range from \$1000 to \$30,000. Mostly, we need a laptop for the inventory. This would fit a couple of the permitted criteria, notably urban forestry management and tree-city qualification. This is a matching grant, so we would need to find some funds here. Moser mentioned some funds from Green Barrington that might be available. Gibbons observed that we ought to have our own laptop, rather than use one of the member's. We could aim at submitting the application for the May 1 schedule; Bozzuto will send the intent letter and check whether \$1000 is the minimum amount, and Ahlin agreed to help write the actual application.

B. Tree inventory

Gibbons announced there will be a meeting on Friday, March 15, with Molly Freilicher, here at the library at 10 AM. She will walk us through the process and maybe do a demonstration on a local street. We may want to do a survey, rather than an inventory. We could start with an inventory of Main Street, for which the plan already has something of an inventory, and maybe some more of the "urban" centers, and plan on doing an inventory later of other areas. Information to be collected will include species, size (possibly by class or range, rather than measured DHB), location, condition, and management strategy. Gibbons, Bozzuto and Shapiro will come to the meeting; Adams will try to be there too. (Concerning Main Street, with construction start now not likely until the fall, the town will have to be sure that planting does not happen in the worst time, which would be next summer.)

C. Arbor Day initiatives

Gibbons suggested just resubmitting the same proclamation as we used a few months ago. The date is April 26. Hilda suggested repeating the artist project. Adams suggested pruning the crabs at Parrish Park. Gibbons will look around for donation of a tree to plant; Adams thought he might have an oak available to donate, and Paul Gibbons suggested a park location for a tree, at Grove Street. Bozzuto suggested an art program at the elementary school; she and Hilda will check with the teachers at Muddy Brook and maybe the middle school and the Steiner school. Bozzuto reminded that we should do a press release; Moser will write something up, about Tree City and Arbor Day.

D. Northampton model

Bozzuto passed around a list from the Northampton website that gives specific guidance about planting. Some of the species might not be as appropriate for our region as they are for the milder Pioneer Valley. Wikle will review the list and adapt it for use on the Great Barrington website.

E. Friedman column

Moser called attention to the recent column in the Record criticizing the Main Street tree plans. She volunteered to write a response, if the experts on the committee will give her the right

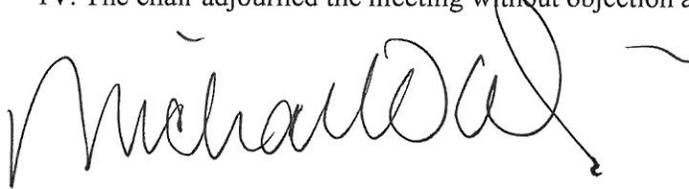
information.

F. Inquiry about jurisdiction

Jim Stark inquired whether the committee got involved in decisions about defining which trees are town responsibility. Gibbons responded that this committee has not; the relevant definitions are in the Massachusetts General Law.

G. The next meeting will be April 3, 2013.

IV. The chair adjourned the meeting without objection at 5:59.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Gibbons". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a distinct "D" and "G".