

Tree Committee

April 3, 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, Steve Adams, Jess Wikle, Hilda Shapiro, Absent: Judith Dillon (who plans to resigns as a regular member), Maria Ahlin, Olga May Milligan, Susan Sheridan. Also present: Laurie Epstein (observing pending appointment).

II. Draft minutes from the meeting of March 6, 2012 were approved without objection.

III. Old business

A. DCR grant application

Gibbons reported on conversations about beginning the town tree inventory or survey. Three meetings have been set up and then missed; they will try again in April. Some questions arose about the grant. The minimum is \$1000, and it must be matched by local funds. What we want to do fits several grant categories. Nevertheless, the grant application should be as specific as possible. We need a hand-held device for the field work. Moser inquired about the source of the matching funds. Moser and Shapiro inquired about the matching funds requirements; Gibbons opined that this would be clearer after they meet with the DCR representative and proceed with the process. Bozzuto observed that we will probably not meet the May grant deadline, that the inventory should not wait until the November grant process, and that we should start the old-fashioned way, transferring the information to the digital format when that is available. Gibbons observed that the inventory would begin with Main Street, Great Barrington, and extend one street beyond, detailing all the public trees. (Joe Sokul envisioned doing from the railroad tracks to the river.) Outside that area, a less intensive sampling survey would be more appropriate. Bozzuto thought that we could do the downtown inventory work without the digital technology.

Adams suggested specifying some particular trees for planting, or a small nursery for starting trees, as uses for grant funds. Joe Sokul told him the committee could ask for some more money for the tree budget, to see what happens.

Moser reported that Green Barrington has \$900 available, of which half could go to match this grant, or for other purposes. She has control over the funds.

B. Arbor Day initiatives

Shapiro reported that she has some artists lined up from the Senior Center to do the sycamore on Stockbridge Road. Some kids from the Steiner School are also interested, as well as some local artists. Berkshire Bank is willing to host the show again. Gibbons reported that Tom Whalen will donate two trees, an American elm and a single-stem shad. Adams is donating a red oak. The chair of the Parks commission suggested putting them in Tracy Park, the open space across from Belcher Square. The elm and the oak will go there. Others will go into the Grove Street park. A maple was removed (somewhat inadvertently). Moser inquired about after-planting care of trees planted in parks; Gibbons said the parks commission does follow up. He is going to the parks commission meeting next week to discuss this.

Gibbons suggested that he and Adams assess the National Grid trees, to see how they are doing and do necessary maintenance.

Moser reported that she had submitted the proclamation for the approval of the select board. Gibbons said we had not yet received formal notification that Great Barrington has been designated a Tree City for 2012; we might have that information before Arbor Day, and if there is a plaque, we could make posting that an event to mark the proclamation and the Day.

Gibbons observed that he has received some inquiries connected with the fairgrounds promoters'

Arbor Day projects. They are looking for volunteers. He wished them well and said we would be happy to offer advice about tree selection and management. Tom Ingersoll is going to plant a large tree, such as a sycamore or tulip, at the southwest corner.

IV. New Business

A. Main Street aftercare

Moser said that Phillips assured there would be an after-care plan. The specifications call for the design team is to stay with the project. That means Tom Ingersoll will have to stay with them and come up with the aftercare plan, once the state has given the 100 percent approval. Deb Phillips suggested that the Tree Committee make a presentation in citizen speak time, after the 100 percent approval stage, to specify what the after-care plan should include. We can approach Tom Ingersoll to discuss the concerns, about watering and developmental pruning.

B. The next meeting will be May 1, 2013.

V. The chair adjourned the meeting without objection at 6:08.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael D. [unclear]". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the meeting minutes text.