

Tree Committee

November 6, 2013, Mason Library

I. Chair Dennis Gibbons called the meeting to order at 5:15. pm. Present were members Dennis Gibbons, Lisa Bozzuto, , Maria Ahlin, Michael Wise, Jess Wikle, Beth Moser, and Susan Sheridan. Absent: Hilda Shapiro, Laurie Epstein, Steve Adams, and tree warden Michael Piretti.

II. Draft minutes from the meeting of October 2, 2013 were approved, after discussion about the letter to the Selectboard about revising the resolution providing for the makeup of the Committee.

III. Old business

A. Grove St. Park tree replacement

Gibbons reported that Whelan Nurseries has offered a red oak. Gibbons has set a stake in place where it should go, and Whelan is going to put it in next week.

B. Tree Inventory Street List

Bozzuto presented a scheme for deciding the scope of the proposed inventory. The pilot program will do the downtown: from St. James to Cottage, from the railroad tracks to the river. It could be extended along the main thoroughfares and into neighborhoods, depending on how the tree warden and DPW actually use it. To implement it, we could do the first stage ourselves. In-kind services might be donated and constitute the element to be matched by a grant. After the Main Street segment is done, we could apply for DCR grants to hire an arborist. We could also consider using student interns or the Cornell "SWAT" team (though that looks surprisingly expensive).

C. DCR grant

Ahlon and Bozzuto reported on the process. The letter of intent must be submitted by next April, and the final application is due May 1. The final application should include letters of support and other documentation. They will do a draft letter of intent to review at the December meeting. Sheridan will check out possible internship resources at UMass.

D. Tree City

Gibbons reminded that the annual application needs to be done. Much can be done on-line. The elements are ready: celebration of Arbor Day was memorialized in the Record (Moser will track down the photo).

IV. New Business

A. Invasives

Sheridan reported on a discussion with Project Native about publicizing native seasonal alternatives, which she will follow up.

V. The next meeting will be December 4, 2013. The principal agenda item will be plans for the tree inventory.

VI. The chair adjourned the meeting without objection at 5:58 PM.

