

Tree Committee

December 4, 2013, Mason Library

I. Chairman Dennis Gibbons called the meeting to order at 5:15. PM, present were members Dennis Gibbons, Lisa Bozzuto, Maria Ahlin, Laurie Epstein, and Michael Wise; Hilda Shapiro arrived shortly afterward. Absent: Jess Wikle, Beth Moser, Susan Sheridan, Steve Adams, and tree warden Michael Piretti.

II. Draft minutes from the meeting of November 6, 2013 were approved without objection.

III. Old business

A. DCR grant letter of intent and inventory plan

Ahlin and Bozzuto reported that they began to draft a letter and noticed that grants for inventories seem to get special consideration. Because of the close interest in the inventory among our membership, they decided to propose a way to start the inventory ourselves. on the process. Gibbons and Bozzuto will finish downtown. The stretch of Route 7 north of the Main Street project deserves attention (and has more interesting trees than Main street); however, much of that is state highway, so the town has less responsibility. Ahlin and Bozzuto will inquire from Mike Piretti about the town's role there, in particular, whether the town could plant trees. In any event, we will start a do-it-yourself inventory from Cottage street north, and maybe some of the side streets.

The objective of the grant might instead be planting, including in the town cemeteries and parks. That now includes the Housatonic school playground.

B. Tree planting initiative

Gibbons is getting inquiries and requests about planting trees. He is continuing to ask about whether there will be any town budget for this. For example, on Grove street, several residents have reported dying maple trees and would like trees planted in the vacant spaces. He would like to establish a "bank" of tree planting possibilities.

IV. New business

A. Gibbons shared a promotional item about problems with tree management, which might be used for a consciousness-raising or fund-raising project. Particularly if the town will not have a budget for tree planting, it would be good to have some fund-raising presence, perhaps an invitation on the town website for donations. Or perhaps the town could sell "memorial" plaque spaces, similar to those that mark the trees on Main Street for the last project.

V. The next meeting will be January 8, 2014.

VI. The chair adjourned the meeting without objection at 6:03 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Piretti". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.