

Tree Committee

January 8, 2014, Mason Library

I. Chairman Dennis Gibbons called the meeting to order at 5:18. PM; present were members Dennis Gibbons, Lisa Bozzuto, Maria Ahlin, Jess Wikle, Hilda Shapiro, Beth Moser, Steve Adams and Michael Wise. Absent: Laurie Epstein, Susan Sheridan and tree warden Michael Piretti.

II. Draft minutes from the meeting of December 4, 2013 were approved without objection.

III. Old business

A. DCR grant letter of intent and inventory plan

Information is still needed from the tree warden. Jess Wikle will put together an overlay map to help identify the public lands. Mike Piretti has not yet been heard from, about who would be responsible for planting along Route 7. Discussion started with Main Street north of Cottage, where there are few trees on the west side. On Stockbridge Road, the setback on the east side seems to leave room for planting. Some private businesses could be opportunities.

B. Tree planting initiative

Gibbons described ideas promoted by author Jim Robbins about focusing planting on "champion" specimens and planning plantings to correct the tendency to fragment forests. Commercially available stocks are expensive, but we might collect seeds from local "champions", as a project. A local authority about the subject and about old growth forests is Bob Leverett; Lisa Bozzuto will inquire whether he might participate in an event here, such as a talk at the library and a walk through Ice Glen or another local forest area. Gibbons has contacted the town manager about having a budget for tree planting. Joe Sokul did succeed in adding \$5000 for trees to the annual budget, but that may not go toward planting. Gibbons also inquired about putting a "donations" button on the town website, to support tree planting. Another, potentially more responsive, source of funding for planting could be the new CPA; trees could be part of a CPA-funded project.

C. Tree inventory

Gibbons and Bozzuto will start the Main Street inventory, starting at the north end of the project. Molly Freilicher is supportive but cannot help on the planned date, January 14. Steve Adams will also help out. The date may be changed to accommodate participation.

IV. The next meeting will be February 5, 2014.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Piretti". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.