

Tree Committee

May 7, 2014, Mason Library

I. Chairman Dennis Gibbons called the meeting to order at 5:17 PM; present were members Dennis Gibbons, Lisa Bozzuto, Maria Ahlin, Laurie Epstein, and Michael Wise. Absent: Beth Moser, Jess Wikle, Susan Sheridan, Hilda Shapiro, and tree warden Michael Piretti. Ed Abrahams sat in.

II. Draft minutes from the meeting of April 2, 2013 were approved without objection.

III. Old business

A. DCR grant tree selections and placement

The next step is to talk with the businesses along Stockbridge Road to discuss their willingness to permit planting and select trees. Epstein go around with Shapiro for this purpose. Most trees selected will be smallish (under 20 feet); Gibbons will send Epstein list the Committee generated, of about 10 trees. The next deadline for grant applications is November 1. We are looking now at planting next season. The scope of the request depends on how many places we can put trees. It is a matching grant; contribution of town employee time would count toward the town's.

B. Arbor Day 2014

The Record carried a story about it, per Moser's contribution. Gibbons planted a gingko in the cemetery (accompanied by a small ceremony, initiated by Ronnie Findley). Haupt also did some pruning in the cemetery. Gibbons checked the health of the National Grid plantings; most appear normal for this time of year. He will continue to pressure DPW for replacements for the three that did not make it.

IV. New business

A: Main Street renovation display

Gibbons suggested we have put in the library case showing the plan and the tree selections. All concurred. It will reassure the public about the plan, and sensitize people about the need to care for trees over the long run. Gibbons and Wise reported on their recent conversations with Honey Sharp, who is writing a piece about the Main Street trees for the Berkshire Edge.

B. Town support

Gibbons reported that the town is going to buy a tablet for the Committee's inventory, thanks to some support from the Parks Commission and the chair of the Community Preservation Committee.

V. The next meeting will be June 4, 2014.

VI. The chair adjourned the meeting without objection at 5:51 PM.

