

Tree Committee

July 9, 2014, 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, Hilda Banks Shapiro, and Beth Moser. Michael Wise arrived later in the meeting. Absent: Jess Wikle, Susan Sheridan, and tree warden Michael Piretti.

II. Draft minutes from the meeting of May 7, 2013 were approved without objection.

III. Old business

A. DCR grant tree permission from private owners

This faces a November deadline. A list of locations along Route 7 (Stockbridge Road) and tree suggestions for planting in those locations will be sent to all committee members. Laurie and Hilda will visit all the locations to request permission from property owners to plant. Locations are town property, Four Brothers , Cove, Sears, Berkshire Bank, and Wonderful Things. Ownership of the land between Shiro and the town park is unclear. A swamp oak is scheduled to go there. The area north of Four Brothers might a problem; we need to explain that the state plans to remove the ash tree that is there now. By Wonderful Things, the redbud might be too large; a common lilac might be better. A shrub might be an easier sell. Near the Cove too maybe a lilac would work. Planting will take place 6-12 months after the November deadline for the application. We should tell owners that this will extend the planned plantings from Main Street.

B. Educational display in library case

To answer questions about Main Street tree selections, we should get a project map from the town and explain the vision of a multi-layered canopy of trees. The display could include photos or silhouette line drawings of trees to be planted.

C. National Grid plantings

Joe Sokol has not taken action about replacing the trees that have not made it. At least three trees are already in trouble. Perhaps Dennis should talk to Joe Sokul and the town manager, intimating that he could make an appeal at the Selectboard meeting, during citizen speak time, to make the problem public.

IV. New business

A. New member:

It was suggested that Adam, from DCR, might be recruited to join the committee.

V. General

A. Berkshire Edge

Gibbons called attention to the item in the Berkshire Edge by Honey Sharp. The article misquoted Gibbons about the pear trees; he had mentioned that early pruning did not plan ahead, but the article also mentioned the planting. Gibbons will submit a correction.

B. Tree Committee resolution, amended

Gibbons noted that members who do not attend should not be on the committee any more. Interest in general is declining, now that the Main Street project is not the focus. The resolution now requires that the committee have 11 members. A better number would be from seven to nine. We should ask the Selectboard to amend the resolution to reduce the membership to a minimum of five and to provide that some number or proportion of them should be professionally qualified.

V. The next meeting will be in September unless otherwise notified by the chair.

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

Michael O'Wise