

Tree Committee

August 6, 2014, Mason Library

I. Chairman Dennis Gibbons called the meeting to order at 5:20 PM. Present were members Dennis Gibbons, Lisa Bozzuto, Hilda Banks Shapiro, and Michael Wise. Absent: Beth Moser, Maria Ahlin, Laurie Epstein, Jess Wikle, Susan Sheridan, and tree warden Michael Piretti. In the absence of a quorum, the committee held a discussion of recent developments, without taking action.

II. Draft minutes from the meeting of June 9, 2014 will be approved at the next meeting.

III. Old business

A. DCR grant tree permission from private owners

Hilda and Laurie talked with property owners along Stockbridge Road. Sears would like two trees, if possible. Wonderful Things was enthusiastic. Four Brothers is now agreeable to a tree. Asia Barong was supportive; they talked with the owner. They did not get a commitment from Shiro, Cove or Berkshire Bank. Dennis has talked to Harry Yu from Shiro, advising that the white oak would not actually be on his property; they are now OK with the planting. He also talked with Tom Hanke at the Cove. There, the property of interest is probably DOT right of way. Hanke has not gotten back to us. Permission might not be necessary, but Bozzuto urged that we not proceed without getting some agreement.

Bozzuto will get some information about prices from Ward's, to prepare the grant application. Gibbons will advise about whether we should expect this to be based on wholesale or retail prices. Since this is a matching grant, maybe we could work out an arrangement to take the difference between wholesale and retail as a donation.

IV. New business

A. Summerfest

This event is the afternoon of August 23. There will be a "town table", and the town manager is urging committees to be present. Gibbons suggested we be there, to explain the Main Street tree plan. An enlarged printout of the planting plan for Main Street would be a good visual aid. Gibbons will send out an e-mail recruiting volunteers. Hilda is willing, and Dennis will cover it too.

B. New member

John MacGruer, of the Grove Street Park area, has expressed interest in tree issues over there, and he might be interested in joining.

V. General

A. Inventory

Gibbons picked up the committee's tablet for the inventory. The tablet is carried on DPW's books. The software is not loaded yet. Adam, from DCR, is interested in helping with the inventory, but not in being on the committee.

B. National Grid follow-up

Gibbons tried to get on the Selectboard agenda to report on the need for follow-up, for the contractor to fulfill the one-year guarantee to take care of the ones that have died. Gibbons looked at all of the trees today. Most look good, but several have died. He will send an e-mail to the town manager about the situation, mentioning the contractor responsibility and specifying the trees. Peretti has suggested that we accept a reimbursement and use the funds to get some trees for

places along South Main Street. Some of the owners in that area have resisted plantings, though.

C. Tree City plaque

Bozzuto noted that the latest (2013) plaque is not mounted yet. Gibbons said it has been delivered.

V. The next meeting will be September 3, 2014.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael DeWife". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.