

Tree Committee

December 3, 2014, Mason Library

I. Chairman Dennis Gibbons called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM. Present were members Dennis Gibbons, Lisa Bozzuto,, Jess Wikle, Laurie Epstein, Beth Moser, and Michael Wise, and tree warden Michael Piretti. Absent: Hilda Banks Shapiro. Also present: Selectboard member Ed Abrahams.

II. Minutes of the meeting of November 5, 2014 were approved.

III. Old business

A. DCR grant matching funds

Bozzuto reported on progress completing the application. The working group (Gibbons, Wikle and Bozzuto) will get together in early January to continue going through the checklist. The deadline for submission is May. Gibbons said planting is likely to happen in early 2016, although Gibbons hoped some might start in the fall of 2015. Wise was asked to draft a form for business owners to sign off permitting the planting.

B. Main Street meeting with DOT

Gibbons reported on the meeting last week. At that meeting, Tom Ingersoll emphasized the importance of protecting the roots of the Town Hall elm tree. Chips have not been put down yet, in an area where the contractors are working in that area now. Gibbons will mention this to the town manager. Ingersoll and Adams will do a tree-by-tree walkthrough. Ingersoll will be consulted about any requests for substitution. The town manager made clear that the town would hold the contractor to the specifications about maintenance. Gibbons will emphasize to the town manager the importance of working with the landscaper in choosing trees, backing up Ingersoll's request to be involved and start that early.

C. Revised committee resolution

Gibbons reported that the Select Board approved reducing the size of the committee to seven. The Select Board wanted to have resignations before that action was taken. Gibbons requested that Maria resign, since she had expressed an intention to resign when the grant is done. That transition could have been handled better. Further reorganization may be needed next year.

IV. New business

A. Bylaw re replacement of town trees

Bozzutto suggested drafting a bylaw calling for the replacement of town street trees that are removed or lost. The curb cut at St. James Place raises the issue. (There will be a site visit there about the tree removal Friday at 5 PM, in preparation for the Select Board consideration of the removal at its meeting Monday night at 7). Replacements need not go into the same position, of course, if the loss or removal is due to hazard or inconsistent use. Bozzutto will draft basic language, and Wise will edit it. This would need to be submitted for approval by Town Meeting.

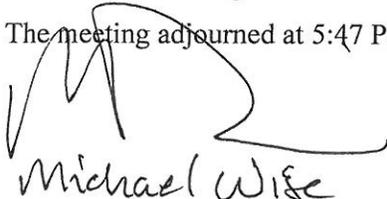
B. Heritage trees

Piretti reported that as far as he knew there are no designated Heritage trees in the town. Gibbons will double-check the Arbor Day website.

V. General

A. The next meeting will be December 3, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 PM.



Michael Wise