

## Tree Committee

April 1, 2015, Mason Library

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

II. Minutes of the meeting of March 4, 2014 were approved.

III. Old business

### A. Tree List

Bozzuto suggested posting our recommended tree list on the website, after observing that the developer at 198 Maple is planting some things that are not on it (revealed by their appearance at the Conservation Commission). Wikle brought the version the Committee prepared last year for review before posting. Gibbons noted that the species on the Main Street project plan ought to be on this list, for consistency.

### B. Arbor Day

Gibbons has inquired from Windy Hill about donating a red sunset maple, to plant at the Mahaiwe cemetery near Bizalion. Shapiro reported that the teacher organizing the painting project is all ready to go. Piretti reported that Haupt will prune the crabapples and other trees along the Silver Street side of the cemetery; he might also do something with the white pines that have invaded the power lines. Gibbons will get the proclamation onto the Selectboard agenda for next month, necessary for the annual Tree City qualification. An e-mail has been received confirming our designation as a Tree City for this year.

### C. Bylaw amendment

Bozzuto reported on the proposal for a bylaw requiring that a replacement be planted when a town tree is removed. She would like to develop something based on the Northampton model.

### D. DCR Grant

The papers are ready for signature by the Town Manager. The effort has been disproportionate.

IV. New business

### A. Town meeting items: temporary easement for grant, amended bylaw

Gibbons reported that DPW wants something formal, in the form of a temporary easement, for town employees to plant and tend these trees. That might require action by town meeting. Gibbons will find the similar authorization for easements that was adopted for the Main Street project.

### B. Mahaiwe Cemetery

Bozzuto reported that a big spruce there recently fell there. The cemetery commission should be advised to be sure it is cleaned up.

### C. Membership

Gibbons reported that Laurie Epstein is resigning for health reasons.

### D. Main Street tree removal

Public objections are about as expected. The contractor's failure to finish the job in front of Town Hall is regrettable. At St. James, the crew is getting closer to the sugar maple; Piretti will remind DPW about the need to protect that tree.

V. General

A. The next meeting will be May 6, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

  
Michael Wise  
Secretary