

Tree Committee

March 4, 2015, Mason Library

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

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

III. Old business

A. DCR grant matching application

Gibbons reported on progress. Letters of support are in hand from the Parks Commission (which might be able to add something from their budget) and the Tree Warden. We are asking for \$2000, and we have lined up \$4700 in in-kind contributions. We have \$1000 in matching cash commitment. The town may be able to contribute \$1000 up-front to buy the trees, to be reimbursed when the grant is paid. The state contracting boilerplate forms will be taken to DPW or the town planner, who are experienced in state grant paperwork, to ensure consistency in the formal details. Gibbons is awaiting confirmation from Molly at DCR about the budget. DPW has inquired about whether we have approval from DOT; Gibbons responded that these are going on private property. To "formalize" the arrangements with the businesses where the trees will be planted, Wise suggested sending each a letter acknowledging and thanking them for accepting the offer to plant and maintain the trees, referring to the visit last year from Hilda and Laurie, with some detail about when and how they will be planted and the need for access to maintain them for three years to be sure they become established. To invite confirmation (or objection), it should identify a contact-information person. Gibbons will draft a letter.

IV. New business

A. Arbor Day

Hilda reported on progress with the youth project. Piretti reported that Haupt is likely to contribute something, as usual. Gibbons would like to do something with a donated tree on south Main Street, perhaps along the fairgrounds stretch. That might be in addition to the three trees that the town intends to help pay for. Piretti suggested the north side of Silver Street, at the east end; Bozzuto pointed out the problem of leaf litter on that stretch, and suggested a conifer in the cemetery instead. Gibbons proposed a deciduous tree farther south, as well as something in the park in Housatonic. For a cemetery spot, something broad like a red sunset was suggested. Moser will be asked to do a press release.

B. Membership

Mike Piretti intends to become a member when there is a vacancy (when Gibbons leaves).

V. General

A. The next meeting will be April 1, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 PM.


Michael Wise
Secretary