

Tree Committee

August 12, 2015, Mason Library

I. Jess Wikle called the meeting to order at 5:18 PM. Present were members , Lisa Bozzuto, Hilda Banks Shapiro, and Michael Wise and tree warden Michael Piretti. Absent: Beth Moser.

II. Minutes of the meeting of June 3, 2014 were approved.

III. Old business

A. Heritage Tree List for Great Barrington

Piretti updated the status of some trees on the list. The Town Hall elm is being taken care of in the Main Street project. The elm on South Main, feared lost to Dutch elm disease, was treated and now looks very good. Some other Jefferson elms in town are not looking good, and Tom Zetterstrom is now advising against planting more. Bozzuto suggested putting pictures of some of these trees on postcards and selling them to raise funds to support plantings: the sycamore on Stockbridge road, the oak at Simons Rock, the Town Hall elm. Wikle will ask around about photographers willing to donate services. Shapiro mentioned a local painter, Eunice Agar, who might contribute something too.

B. Bylaw amendment

Bozzuto presented some ideas for principal topics based on the Amherst bylaw. On the last item about replacement plantings, it was suggested that it permit planting at a different site. A definition of "town tree", possibly by cross-reference, should be included. After the committee has taken another look at this, it should be run by the Planning Board and the town manager, who might want to have town counsel look at it.

IV. New business

A. Searles School development

Wikle said we should send a letter to Iredale about why the shad tree on the front of the property should be preserved. The project appears to be proceeding. Bozzuto will help with the drafting.

B. Annual report

Wikle has put together the Committee's annual report for FY14 and will submit it by the Friday deadline.

C. Planning aheads

Shapiro suggesting thinking about doing something musical for Arbor Day next year, rather than the school art project we have been doing. Bozzuto noted that we should start the paperwork for Tree City designation at the next meeting.

V. General

A. The next meeting will be September 2, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM.


Secretary