

Tree Committee

September 2, 2015, Mason Library

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

II. Minutes of the meeting of August 12, 2015 were approved without objection

III. Old business

A. Bylaw amendment

Bozzuto said we needed to include definitions of town trees, town property and town right of way. Piretti said this could be taken from Ch. 87 of Massachusetts General Law; "town tree" has been treated to mean any tree whose base touches the town property or right of way.

B. Tree City USA

Wikle said she had gotten the file about the requirements, which look straightforward. Piretti said he would provide examples as needed. Most of the data would be essentially unchanged from the last time. The submission is due in December.

IV. New business

A. Elm trees on Main Street

Wikle passed around the messages from Tom Zetterstrom reporting that the new cultivars are not showing sufficient resistance. Wikle will consult Tom Ingersoll and advise the town manager about the need to substitute other native species for these trees in the plan. .

B. Shad tree at Searles

Bozzuto inquired about the status of this recommendation. The tree is in private property.

C. Recruiting

Piretti observed that local experts may have more time available as the season winds down.

D. Van Duesenville solar project

Piretti said National Grid has asked about trimming and removing some trees along Van Duesenville road, in order to run wires to the project. One oak is showing signs of rot. Bozzuto inquired whether we could ask them to plant replacements elsewhere.

V. General

A. The next meeting will be October 7, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.


secretary