

Tree Committee

October 7, 2015, Mason Library

I. Jess Wikle called the meeting to order at 5:17 PM. Present were members Hilda Banks Shapiro, Beth Moser, Lisa Bozzuto, and Michael Wise and tree warden Michael Piretti. Also present: Joe Sokul.

II. Minutes of the meeting of September 2, 2015 were approved without objection

III. Old business

A. Bylaw amendment

Bozzuto presented a draft. Moser proposed phrasing the items as imperatives rather than as suggestions. Piretti pointed out that the last paragraph about removing trees on the right of way mostly involves the power company; we might consider adding a phrase excusing the replanting obligation where the removal is due to town maintenance.

B. Tree City USA

Wikle needs the press release and proclamation; Moser will take care of it. The town tree budget this year is \$55,000; Mike Piretti will confirm the amount.

C. Elm trees on Main Street

Wikle reviewed the situation and the e-mail exchanges with Tom Zetterstrom and Tom Ingersoll. Sokul reported that the elms in the contract are Jeffersons; all varieties of elms cost the same. Changes that cost more would come out of the contingency. Current plan is to plant next spring. If we change the contract, that has to be done very soon. The contractor will be responsible for maintenance for a year. Sokul said there should be a long-term plan in place for maintenance. The town treats some of its elms regularly. Wikle will talk with Tom Ingersoll to confirm his recommendation to substitute Jeffersons for New Harmony and to get his ideas for other hardwoods that might substitute for some of them.

D. Iredale letter re shad tree

Wikle reported on input from Craig Okerstrom, who is working on the hotel project. Because of the scale, it would not be possible to save that tree. Okerstrom would like to meet with us before the October 22 Planning Board. That may not be possible; we will return to this in November

E. Photos of heritage trees

Bozzuto reported on a photographer who is willing to start on this project (her son's girlfriend).

IV. New business

A. Replacement tree at Mahaiwe Cemetery

Bozzuto said she had discussed this with Dennis Gibbons. The maple he had planted died. He is willing to plant a replacement, if we can find someone to donate it. Piretti said this is a good time of year to ask for donations.

V. Citizen speak time

VI. General

A. The next meeting will be November 4, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

