

Tree Committee

June 8, 2016, Mason Library

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

II. Minutes of the meeting of May 4, 2015 were approved without objection.

III. Old business

A. Tree planting grant

Wikle reported that all the trees are in, through the volunteer labor of Dennis Gibbons. DPW is supposed to be watering them. Bozzuto suggested taking some pictures and sending them to the Edge. Hilda suggested creating a book of photos of all of the new trees in town, including the Main Street trees. Moser thought putting that onto a web archive, such as on the Edge, would be more cost effective. For the Main Street trees, some were swapped out; Tom Ingersoll probably has the final disposition.

B. Bylaw amendment

Wikle reported that the bylaw amendment passed at Town Meeting with no controversy.

IV. New business

A. Tree work at Brookside Gardens

Ed Abrahams inquired about who is maintaining the trees at this development that is owned by the housing authority. Piretti said that Dennis Gibbons has been doing it, probably volunteering. He inquired about the cost of a permanent spruce tree at the Congregational Church.

B. Holiday lighting

Piretti reported that the town may want to decorate the new trees this year. These deciduous trees are not well adapted to that. An alternative would be smaller evergreens in buckets near the outlets. The committee should come up with a plan.

C. Main Street trees

The shades are mostly dying. Bozzuto will call this to the town manager's attention, to be sure replacements are done under the contract. The work is not done yet; Piretti said the landscaper is due to put in perennials, and the areas should be staked and protected better. Tom Ingersoll is probably the point person. Moser will follow up with the town manager.

V. Citizen speak time

Ed Abrahams reminded all about the special town meeting Monday.

VI. General

A. The next meeting will be August 3, 2016.

The meeting adjourned without objection at 5:46 PM.



8/8/16