

Tree Committee

April 5, 2017, Mason Library

I. Lisa Bozzuto called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Present were members Michael Wise, Nan Wile, Michael Piretti. Hilda Banks Shapiro, Beth Moser, J. B. Brodeur.

II. Minutes of the meeting of March 1, 2017 were approved, without objection.

III. Old business

A. Tree City renewal

Piretti reported that the application is approved. There probably will not be a new sign. We have an invitation to the announcement meeting. Sean will sign the Arbor Day proclamation, which is a requirement for next year's application.

B. Tree planting budget

Bozzuto said it was too late to get a line item into the 2018 budget, but some of the appropriated money should be available for planting, so we should make some requests and suggestions. The DPW director will support a separate planting line item for the next budget. Brodeur asked about places for planting, particularly in town parks; Piretti explained that maintenance in the parks is the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation committee. To brief the new members, Bozzuto explained the Tree Committee's mission about this, with reference to the statement of purpose on the town website.

C. Arbor Day planning

Shapiro said the committee should be more aggressive about publicizing the contest. So far there has not been much actual response. Moser said the art teachers at local schools and some others got the press release package. Moser will buy some small ads in the Shoppers Guide. All of the members except Bozzuto, Wise and Piretti volunteered to be judges. Moser will do another press release about the seedlings being available at the library later in the month, although they have not arrived yet.

IV. New business

A. Utility pole maintenance

Wile described a problem with unclear responsibility for tree-related maintenance around power and communication lines. In Northampton, the utilities divide that responsibility geographically. The Committee discussed whether dividing responsibility would improve service. Piretti will inquire further.

V. Citizen speak time

There were no citizens to speak.

VI. General

A. The next meeting will be May 3, 2017, at 5:30.

The meeting adjourned without objection at 6:00 PM.

Lisa Bozzuto
5/4/17