

Tree Committee

May 3, 2017, Mason Library

I. Lisa Bozzuto called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM. Present were members Michael Wise, Nan Wile, Michael Piretti, Hilda Banks Shapiro, Beth Moser, and J. B. Brodeur. Also attending: Chris Wiltshire, Ed Abrahams.

II. Minutes of the meeting of April 5, 2017 were approved, without objection.

III. Old business

A. Arbor Day activities

Shapiro reported on the art contest, held in conjunction with Ward's nursery. The theme: painting, drawing or photo of a tree. There were 42 entries, in two divisions, for kids under 13 (only four entries) and for adults. First prize, a tree, for adults went to Peggy Reeves. The Record covered the awards and took some pictures. Wards was happy with the event and might do it again; if so, the placement ought to be more prominent. Brodeur suggested a more streamlined, two-stage method of judging for the next time, to identify quickly the likely top finishers and then reach a consensus about the awards. Piretti said Haupt Tree pruned the heritage sycamore by McDonalds, at no cost to the town; Bozzuto will send them a thank-you. National Grid also picked Great Barrington for their own Arbor Day observation and donated four trees, which they bought from Wards (for \$1300); they have been planted at Castle & Main (to replace one that died), Town Hall (by the gazebo), Mahaiwe Cemetery and the Housie Dome. The library display drew attention and most of the seedlings were taken. Moser called the Record, which said the release would run two days before Arbor Day; no one could recall seeing it, though. Moser kept clippings from the Shoppers Guide entries and copies of the posters, to include with the next year's application.

IV. New business

A. Tree inventory

Bozzuto noted that the inventory of town street trees had gotten started with Dennis Gibbons, for Main Street and some of Stockbridge Road, and it ought to be continued so the data could support a planting program if we get a budget line item for it. Piretti inquired whether the Parks Commission has ever asked for an inventory; no one could recall that they had. The tree warden does not have any jurisdiction over those. Moser recalled that the starting target for the survey was downtown, between the river and the train tracks. Piretti and Bozzuto suggested continuing down South Main Street. Bozzuto will approach Molly at DCR, for advice about using the iTree software, and report at the next meeting. Members are welcome to help out; Piretti suggested getting an intern for the summertime.

B. Chairperson

Bozzuto noted that she agreed to chair for a year, when Wickle left. She would like to at least have the help of a co-chair.

V. Citizen speak time

Chris Wiltshire inquired what the Committee did. Wise and Moser described the Committee's role in the Main Street project and in consulting with developers. Piretti said the Committee can now start advising about where to plant new trees, since there is a small budget for it. Wiltshire said he would contact the town manager about becoming a member.

VI. General

A. The next meeting will be June 7, 2017, at 5:30.

The meeting adjourned without objection at 6:08 PM.



Handwritten signature and date: 6/9/17