



Town of Amherst
Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 5:30PM
Zoom

Minutes

Present: Alan Snow (Tree Warden), Henry Lappen (chair), Shoshona King, Gordon Green, Bennett Hazlip, Marian Hazzard, Julian Hynes, Gina Etheredge, Sara Lawler (attended part of the meeting), Bruce Griffin.

The meeting came to order at 5:45 and adjourned at 6:40.

New Members

Bruce Griffin interested in joining and attended to see what the shade tree committee does. He used to be on conservation commission. Gina said that Marty Jameson wanted to join meeting but was dissuaded due to zoom problems and will try again later.

Announcements & Public Comments

Shoshona asked if anyone else wanted to represent APSTC on Hitchcock Center trivia night, the next one of which is scheduled for tomorrow 12/9. Gordon and Henry are planning on joining.

Hearings

None are scheduled.

Approval of September, October & November Minutes, Volunteer Hours

September and October minutes were approved. In future cases, Henry is requesting that we send a response immediately to his emails circulating minutes, so that we can stay on top of these.

Committee Reports - Chair

NYT magazine had a good article this Sunday on trees and mycorrhizae; Shoshona will see about posting a link on the Facebook page.

Committee Reports - Tree Warden

Wanczyk's Nursery donated 6 pin oak trees and has others that we can use as soon as Alan gets a chance to pick them up. DPW had a COVID scare but is back to pandemic-normal now. No tree hearings coming up. A removal is in progress by the North Amherst library.

Committee Reports - Treasurer

Sara had dropped off by this point in the meeting, so we will wait until next meeting for the Treasurer's report. **Shoshona** will write with the APSTC postcard to them to thank Wanczyk's them for the pin oaks.

Presentations and Discussion - 2nd Saturday Plantings for 2021

For next year we have The Brook, Glendale Rd, and Mill Lane lined up. For Glendale / Pondview roads, Alan will check with conservation commission to get their okay for a few trees requested by the entrance to Markert's Pond Conservation area. Shoshona mentioned an empty tree pit downtown on North Pleasant in front of the typewriter shop that also needs filling. Julian requested possibility of planting at the redesigned stoplight on Pomeroy; Alan will check into the construction plans for this intersection.

Significant Tree Ordinance

Sara did more work on the document and reviewed a couple of items with the committee, and Bennett and Sara will review further for grammar. Alan will discuss with DPW next steps. We'll have one more round of committee review first.

T-shirts and Tree Placards

Paperwork has been processed, but Shoshona mentioned that last time she checked they hadn't received it. Shoshona will check with them tomorrow. Sara finished placards and posted them around town and took pictures for Facebook.

Website, Facebook and Instagram

Bennett has some changes for the web site which he reviewed with the panel, on the assumption that a radical makeover would be a heavier lift for those managing the site. One major change is adjusting menu items to be more user-friendly. Henry will review in more detail with Bennett and circulate to the committee before the next meeting. Shoshona suggested a PayPal donation button; Alan mentioned that this has to go through the Town Clerk and we need to figure out if this is possible. Bennett has been having trouble reaching town IT department about updating the site; Alan suggested tracking down the system where IT tickets are created, as these should have a better chance of getting staff attention. Shoshona has been posting updates on Facebook.

Money - Fundraising, Ask for town line item

Henry suggested a line item in the town budget so that trees are a recognized expense and investment over time. Bennett mentioned that Cathy Schoen on Town Council might be a good person to contact about this. Darcy DuMont is another good candidate.

Old items

Statewide efforts - Update to Chapter 87, Great Streets, Solar Farms

No updates

New Tree Inventory

No updates

Committee Comments

N/A

Minutes by Gordon Green