

PUBLIC SHADE TREE COMMITTEE
June 9, 2009
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Present: Committee members Hope Crolius, Bob Erwin, and Dennis Ryan; Tree Warden Alan Show; visitors Charles McCarthy and Jason Venditti from UMass.

Messrs. McCarthy and Venditti reported that in laying a steam tunnel and reconfiguring the intersection of Governors Drive and North Pleasant Street – an upcoming UMass construction project – they find they can protect all but two trees on town land. One is a sugar maple with a declining canopy and poor root flare. The other, also a sugar maple, is likewise compromised by a declining canopy, cavities, and root problems. In addition, they identified a third sugar maple that needs special protection in the form of pruning, support cables, and fencing.

Alan Snow, who had inspected the trees prior to the meeting, said that he would agree to removal on the following conditions: (a) that the trees be left up as long as possible during the construction phase and (b) that he be shown the final street plan in order to see whether any tree replacement by the town might be feasible.

Dennis Ryan cautioned against using portable fencing during construction, which contractors tend to move to suit their convenience. He emphasized the need for close monitoring of workers to ensure that they stay within the zone marked for them.

Following discussion of these matters, the committee members present, constituting a quorum, voted unanimously to accept the UMass plan as presented.

Chairperson Hope Crolius announced that the Conservation Commission has granted permission to expand the number of APSTC members from five to seven. She urged current members to think about potential recruits.

Moving on, Hope advocated coordinating the Tree Committee's Arbor Day activities in 2010 with those of the sponsors of Earth Day and Sustainable Energy Day. Greater impact could result if all three groups exhibit and demonstrate on the Common at the same time on the same day.

Adjourned 5:40 p.m.

Next meeting July 14, 2009, Town Hall

Minutes approved at the July 14, 2009 Public Shade Tree Committee meeting.