

Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee
Amherst, Massachusetts
December 11, 2012
Town Hall Conference Room

Agenda:

Present: Hope Crolius, Henry Lappen, Bob Erwin, Nonny Burack, Linzy Rodrigues, Nancy Higgins, Michael Hutton-Woodland

Town of Amherst: Alan Snow, Dave Ziomek

Guests: Dennis Ryan, ex officio

1. **Approval of November 21 minutes** - Henry Lappen motioned; Nonny Burack seconded; unanimously approved as amended.
2. **South Amherst Commons Tree - meeting next Monday at 10 AM at Henry's Co-housing home.** (Discussion of what kind of tree. More of a dwarf-type spruce cultivar is suggested.) Plan to plant on Friday, April 26 - Arbor Day. Field Day at the South Amherst Common.
3. **South Pleasant Street Planting - Examples of planters that could be planted distributed.** Alan suggests contacting Jennifer (?) at Grounds Department at UMass to discuss trees in planters re: cold hardiness and drought tolerance. Planters have root system inside, need insulation. Henry will call Alex Krogh-Grabbe to discuss the Business Improvement District's involvement and possible financing. **Suggested to draft a plan;** Dave mentions DRV (Chris Brestrup) re: issues ADA, snow removal, etc. After we have a plan, then we approach DRV. ACTION: Develop a one paragraph statement.
4. **Annual Tree Planting Schedule - First-Saturday-of-the-Month Plantings.** Hope has developed a draft list for a possible one day a month planting. Possibly to include March through June, then September and October. Skip the hot summer months. Alan has a Spring and Fall hazard list he will share. Consider events that would last from 9-12 AM. Alan has interns working all over town March through August. Consider maintenance. Priorities: Visible areas that would encourage people and neighborhoods to plant more trees. New subdivisions, schools, etc. Nonny mentions having a letter for the paper to announce these plantings (Maria ?).

Tangential item: also consider including stumps - Hope has a list of stumps needing removal. Perhaps we write a letter to people who are possible removing stumps to encourage them also to plant replacement trees. Hope brings a letter to go to homeowners who are facing having a tree taken down/identified as being taken down. The letter could also include information on replacements to be planted.

5. **Growth Award - Tree City USA - National Program** - Amherst has been a Tree City for 25 years. This Growth Award is one way to be further

recognized. Linzy, Alan, and Hope working on this.

6. **Tree Warden's report - Alan will meet with WMECO on their identified trees on Main Street and Pelham Road with Calvin - these are hazard tree and risk tree removal.** These trees have a structural risk. Calvin would like to take these down. Alan also has trees that he wants to take down that endanger wires. Alan is getting calls about the blue tags he has placed on these trees he has marked. We will review the list at the next meeting; he will get the list to us before the meeting. Alan will ask for input from us. **Alan has a MEMA meeting next week - municipal waste from storms.** Alan is working with Mike Andrews and Linzy on developing the Amherst Tree and Grounds website.
7. **APSTC to move with DPW or stay with Con Comm - Dave Ziomek thinks it's a natural progression. This committee needs to be working more closely with DPW, they are the tree planting department.** Dave's functional area taking on a lot more now. Town Manager will decide which department serves the committee best. DPW would oversee the Tree Gift account- support for agendas, website, etc. Nonny thinks we will have more contact with Jason Skeels, Town Engineer. Hope met with Guilford, he likes the Watershed Protection Advisory Committee because they are highly professional and knowledgeable. All material handed out at meetings must be submitted to Nancy and needs to go into archives. Bylaw needs to be written. Guilford feels that APSTC needs to be involved in more planning and more long-term work. Call the Question: Is the APSTC in favor of moving the administrative functions of this committee from Conservation to DPW? Bob moves; Nonny seconds. Passes unanimously.
8. **Mount Pollux Planting -- Brad Bordewieck, Land Manager was scheduled to come but was unable to - he should be included in all planning for this event.** Dave reports Mt. Pollux plan is fine with him. Plan is to keep it open, with the exception of the two trees. Apple trees are dying as well; one or two trees to be replaced. There is discussion to get Andy Cowsls and his family involved. Henry suggests a Black Walnut. Dave will set up with Con Comm and Cowsls family. Watering issue. Bob Erwin is heading up this effort.
9. **Sustainability Festival - Nancy, Hope heading up this effort. Our goal: get the word out about trees in Amherst. Saturday, April 27.**
10. **Arbor Day Poster Contest - Theme: "Celebrate a Tree."** Branch manager of Triangle Street Branch of Northampton Cooperative Bank is excited about hosting a reception. Discussion of hanging in Town Hall, Library. Room in Bangs Center (4-6 grade) to accept the Posters. Nonny, Linzy and Hope are in charge.
11. **Other business - Change date of next meeting to Tuesday January 22.**

