

Town of Amherst
Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee
March 11, 2014

Time: 4:00 to 6:00 PM

Location: Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room

Attendees: Nonny Burack, Bob Erwin, Nancy Higgins, Michael Hutton-Woodland, Henry Lappen, Susan Phillips

Town: Alan Snow, Chris Brestrup

Agenda

Call to Order: Chair Henry Lappen called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

Approval of January minutes – Minutes approved.

Tree Warden's Report (Alan Snow)

- Alan and Michael presented at the UMass Extension Tree Conference. Alan feels we are in the top 10 communities for tree work. Hope and Alan had discussed how to present our work. Alan mentioned a Mass. Tree Warden Bulletin. Michael offered to help author an article.
- Alan will have his workers start up again this spring. Looking for one new Tree Crew Laborer. Position will be posted.
- Deadlines for tree planting projects have been set. Interns coming first week in April, start planting in second week in April.
- Alan still looking for interns.
- DPW will give Alan an operator and equipment to help dig holes in spring.

Chair's Segment (Henry Lappen)

- Henry shared tree pictures from his Africa trip.
- New APSTC members – Henry welcomed our two new members, Melissa Perot and Susan Phillips.
- Task Lists – Melissa has reviewed committees with whom we can collaborate. She reported that DPW is reviewing Mill Street bridge – keeping it as a vehicle passway means widening and taking it into the conservation land, and trees likely to be removed. State money would be available if it is widened for vehicles.
- Alan and Henry will research a town tree.

Treasurer's Report – \$ 9442.03. We still don't know if money has come in for tree removals: Alan will need to research this. Apparently trees cannot be removed (cut down) before the replacement fee is paid.

Tree Species Request Lists – Alan can still use the help with the lists. Everyone encouraged to complete and get to Alan.

2014 Tree Plantings – Bob has two locations – Old Survival Center location (two Sycamores possible). Second location is South Amherst High School [Alan has identified this as a potential orchard location]. First month for planting moved to May due to late winter weather. Also mentioned: South Whitney Street; Sunderland Road; Farview Way. Will be finalized next meeting.

Sustainability Festival – April 26. Nancy attended planning meeting in January; there will be another planning meeting in March of the committee. Henry is getting a banner for our booth. Nonny and Melissa will have exhibit for poster contest entries. Nancy will work on the planning for the festival.

Poster Contest – Nonny and Melissa will work on the Poster Contest and showing the entries.

Webinars - Susan found many listings of possible webinars. She will review and talk with Alan and come up with possibilities for us to view.

By Laws changes – Alan's interns did review and revise bylaws, but did not send to Alan. Alan will send out to be distributed. Will be distributed through email and discussed for next meeting.

Tree Stewards Project poster has been updated and was distributed. Will be added to website with this year's date. Melissa mentions possibility that Sunderland Road might be a candidate for this year's ANTS. Process for applications discussed.

Projects:

- Downtown Tree Planters - Michael reports no response yet from the BID. He is pursuing a meeting.

Other Items not anticipated by the Chair

- Chris Brestrup, Town of Amherst, reported on North end of Town Common planning. Town did not receive Parks grant it was hoping to receive for planning and construction purposes. Feedback was that not enough outreach was conducted. Town wants to reapply this year. Two public forums – Tuesday April 1 at 6:00 PM in Town Room starting with site visit. Two year process – landscape architect to design. Shade Tree Committee will be involved in planning. Shade Tree Committee will meet at 5:00 PM at North Common to discuss the Tree Planting posted for Town Room.

Bill Hutchinson – Bill was a long term Shade Tree Committee member, part of the original group in 1961. He recently passed away – Nonny suggests laying a plaque for him by a planted tree. Jeffrey Lane plantings on his street were suggested as a likely place. Nonny will research and discuss at next meeting. Michael moves, Bob seconds; all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michael Hutton-Woodland