

Town Of Amherst
Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee
DRAFT Minutes 2/10/15

Location: Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room

Members present: Nonny Burack, Bob Erwin, Nancy Higgins, Henry Lappen, Melissa Perot, Susan Phillips

Town of Amherst: Alan Snow

Guests: Shirley Markham, Roger Fega, Scott Merzbach

Shirley and Roger came to the meeting, in response to the Letter to the Editor saying the committee is looking for new members.

- Shirley is interested in becoming a member of the APSTC. She said her interest came about after reading about the work the committee is doing. She is an avid tree lover who has a working knowledge of trees, and brings enthusiasm. Shirley lives in Amherst.
- Roger Fega, also a resident of Amherst, was inspired to volunteer his time and computer skills after hearing Henry at his last speaking engagement.

Shirley and **Roger** will need to fill out the form for volunteers on the town's website.

Approval of Minutes:

- The committee reviewed and approved the minutes from January 2015.
- We still need to review and approve the minutes from November and December 2014.

Chair Report:

- Letters
 - Letter to Editor - the letter was printed. It generated interest from half a dozen people, including Roger and Shirley.
 - Letter to tree companies and real estate companies - **Nonny and Henry** will work on final copy
- Card with water bill - Alan emailed Guilford about the water bill. **Nonny and Henry** will work on it.
- Melissa suggested we have handouts of the letter(s) we plan to send to realtors and companies who cut down trees at sustainability festival. Will need to work on getting them printed when finalized.
- Planning board liaison - **Melissa** is willing to be the contact person with the planning board. She is not aware of anything at this point that is a threat to any town trees. Thank you Melissa
- First Saturday planting - **Henry** will talk to Colonial Village owner.
 - Discussion if there was a preference for planting at Colonial Village or Evening Star. Tabled
 - Alan clarified we can use Hadley Garden Trees for some of the plantings.
- Poster contest: Nonny left messages for Michael. Waiting to hear from him.
- Tree Removal Payments - Henry reported we are due three penalty payments for a total of \$8,000. Alan reported it is still in the works.
- South Amherst School planting.
 - Henry ordered paw paws, persimmons, Asian pears, apples and raspberries.
 - **Alan** will need to get approval to spend the committee's money to purchase the fruit trees.
 - The cost for the trees will come out of the Gift Fund.
 - Only shade trees can come out of Alan's budget

- The students will be involved in planting and caring for the trees. We will need to stay involved with the new students every year to teach them how to maintain the trees.
- Dorie Goldman died. Several people would like to plant a tree, with a plaque, in her honor. They have raised some money. Discussed places to plant the trees. The group will need to get permission from the town manager. **Alan** and **Henry** will follow up.
- Roger would like to have some trees planted in front of his house and will fill out the tree request form.
- Henry got a call from Williamsburg a member of their tree committee who resigned over the town allowing a lot of trees to be cut down.
- Alan completed the city tree application.

Tree Warden Report

- Pine Street site visit is scheduled Monday 3/9/15 at 4:00. Parking at Cushman Market.
- Community Tree Conference - 3/10/15, 9-4 at UMass, Stockbridge Hall. Topics include Preserving Trees and Landscapes in a Changing Environment as well as many others of interest. Nancy, Nonny, Melissa, Shirley and Roger are interested in attending. Henry will check his schedule. **Henry or Alan** will look into the committee paying the admission fee.
- Alan talked to John Kick about the town trees he wants to cut down in order to install solar panels on his roof(s). The APSTC had visited the site and Alan spoke with Mr. Kick about the decision he made. Mr. Kick can cut down only the diseased tree but not the two Norway Maples that are on town property.
- Reminder for everyone to complete the town's sexual harassment policy acknowledgment.

Treasurer's Report

- Bob got a list of expenses and income for last year. There are three deposits totaling \$230.00. The names of donors are unknown. Nonny brought up the fact that we cannot send Thank You notes to the donors unless we know their names.

Other

- **Susan** asked about working on cutting down the invasives (mostly Asian bittersweet vines) that are killing many trees. While many committee members were enthusiastic about, the committee itself cannot work on the project but we might want to look into sponsoring a workshop on managing invasives. Hadley Garden might be a resource.
- Sustainability festival is April 25. Might want to do something at the festival on invasives. Can Hope do it? **Henry** will contact her. Need committee members to staff the table from 10:00 - 4:00 with a set up time of 9:00.
- Flags: Table decision on flags to see how the ones in the boxes on the common make it through the winter. **Nonny** might want to find out if Collective Copies knows anyone else and check out how it worked? Labels cost \$150/roll of 100 labels

Next meeting 3/10/15 at 4:00 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan L. Phillips