

# **Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee**

## **Minutes 5/12/15**

Location: Town Hall Town Room.

Present: Henry Lappen, (chair), Bob Erwin, Nonny Burack, Nancy Higgins, ` Melissa Perot, Alan Snow, (Tree Warden), Mary-Ellen Alicandri  
and Roger Fega

Meeting called to order at 4:04pm

**1. Minutes** of 3/10/15 approved. Minutes of 4/14/15 approved as corrected.

### **2. Membership:**

Roger Fega has applied to become a member. Nonny will send a letter of recommendation to the Select Board.

Mary-Ellen would like to continue as a guest for the time being.

Bob continues 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday coordinator and Treasurer

Melissa will act as recorder.

### **3. Tree Warden Report.**

Alan requested that the committee make formal written recommendations to the tree hearings. Melissa to send an e-mail to Alan with their recommendation. A number of trees on Pine Street originally selected for removal were saved at the PB hearing thanks to the committee recommendations. One may or may not be saved depending on root growth upon initial excavation and one will be cut down.

Alan asked the committee to promote the idea of Community Based Solar in order to begin a process that could move forward in Amherst. Individuals who would otherwise need to cut down trees in order to put solar panels on their own property, (homeowners on Van Meter Dr and N. Hadley Rd have already done so), could participate in a Community based solar project, such as Co-op Power, and save their trees.

First Saturday planting has run into some issues. Crocker Farm wants to extend parking where trees were going to be planted but other locations may be found. Cooley Dickenson on Rt. 9 needs further negotiation.

Kendrick Park renovation based on the Cecil Group recommendations of April 15, 2011 is now moving forward. The first phase concerns the southern tip of the park where underground wires will cross from Pray St to McClellan St. A site visit was suggested to identify affected trees.

South Amherst High School planting was much appreciated and successful thanks to Henry's hard work in coordinating and the teens enthusiastic participation. He and Alan will map the locations and identifications of the trees.

**4. Delinquent payments.** Nonny will stay on top of collecting payments for tree removals.

**5. Treasurer's report:** Bob requested postponement until he gets more information on receipts.

**6. Chair report:**

-The down-town Farmers Market approached Henry with an offer of a booth one Saturday from which the APSTC could disperse information. This opportunity for tree awareness requires that we develop our own publicity materials. Nonny and Mary-Ellen will get together to work on this.

- Nonny will provide Henry with list of people requesting trees

-Colonial Village planting still in planning.

-Henry gave Alan a check for \$380, the cost of the plaque not yet purchased, for the Dorie Goldman memorial. A Turkish Hazelnut is proposed. May 22<sup>nd</sup> is the suggested day for planting in Kendrick Park. Patty Brennan is coordinating.

**7. ANTS:** Nancy reported some good publicity in the Amherst Bulletin and continues to seek a neighborhood for the tree planting.

**8. 1st Saturday Planting:** June 6<sup>th</sup> Crocker Farm. Bob and Alan will meet in the parking lot Friday 15<sup>th</sup> to determine new placement of trees, potentially 5 larger trees and 4 low growing. Bob will call Michael to help with planting. Henry will not be there.

Firstst Saturday in July falls on the 4<sup>th</sup> so planting moved to July 11<sup>th</sup>

**9. Applewood Arboretum.** Roger reported on the meeting held there and was impressed with the level of care, funded largely by Applewood on town conservation land. The 180 trees are named and the small area is at capacity. Suggestions to involve the Stockbridge school to help with maintenance, Hampshire College for student research projects and the APSTC to help with pruning during March and April were made. Bob and Roger will continue to be in touch. Nonny suggested the other town arboreta need to be included in these efforts.

**10. Publicity:**

Grow Food Amherst. John Gerber will contact Henry.

Henry gave an excellent report to Town Meeting and wrote an article on Tree Hormones for the Hitchcock Center space in the Hampshire Gazette.

June 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:00 to 3:00 Tree City Award ceremony at Hampshire College Red Barn. Henry, Alan and Town Manager, John Musante will be speaking.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:25

**Next meeting June 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melissa Perot