

Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee

Minutes 7/14/15

Present: Henry Lappen, (chair), Bob Erwin, Nonny Burack, Nancy Higgins, ` Melissa Perot, Alan Snow, (Tree Warden), and Roger Fega.
Visitors: Scott Merzbach from the Gazette, Martha Taunton from Vanmeter Drive observing, and Gordon Green with an issue.

Meeting called to order at 4:05pm

1. **Minutes** of 5/12/15 were not available and will be approved in August

2. Public Comment

Gordon Green of 150 Montague road presented his concerns about plans to Cowls Rd that could result in significant trimming to his trees. He distributed photos and maps to illustrate the issue that has arisen by the redirection of the road to accommodate side-walk on the south side.

Alan has looked at the trees that are in good health but would need to be pruned back drastically to the trunks. He said they added to the environment and it would be a shame to take such measures when the other side of the road has no such limitation and belongs to the developer of Atkins for which the sidewalk is needed.

Following discussion about alternatives **Nonny** moved that a letter to the Select Board and Public Works Committee be drafted. **Melissa** agreed to join her in doing so and would send a draft to Henry for approval and signature.

3. Tree Warden Report.

Alan reported that work continues on Pine St and that the sidewalk could be completed on the North side in two weeks. Pruning and tree removal continue on the south side to Sandhill Rd. Two Norway Maples may not survive but the Sugar Maple will. He has been talking to residents about replacement planting. Cemetery grass cutting and pool maintenance add to his duties during the summer.

4. Chair report.

Henry's letter to the editor about the Shutesbury solar project that would necessitate cutting acres of forest appeared in the Gazette

Shoshana King is interested in joining the committee along with Martha Taunton, (visiting).

Henry spoke to Northampton and Hadley tree committees and was well received.

Colonial Village cannot be an ANTS project because there is no homeowners associated but **12 trees could be planted there on Saturday Sept 12th.**

Nonny will put a notice in the laundry room asking for participation from residents that day.

Henry noted that the newly painted North church has no trees in front. Melissa agreed to contact Pastor Lee about the matter. He also asked Bob if he would work on finding businesses that would allow parking lot trees.

5. Farmers Market

Bob and Nonny have been working on 4 leaflets.

- a) Liability and correct procedures for removing town trees.
- b) Ideological describing the benefits of town trees,
- c) Practical information about care and 25 trees that would do well in Amherst.
- d) Fund raiser leaflet.

Henry requested the final text be e-mailed, (Melissa offered to help with that aspect), to members for approval and then the fliers could be formatted and printed by the DPW.

6. ANTS

Nancy thanked Scott Merzbach for printing the extended deadline for submissions. 2 potential applications have resulted, one from Shoshona at Rolling green and one involving three families on Potwine Lane. Bob suggested Alan take a look at the location because there is a lot of wetland there. . One location will be chosen at the August 11th Meeting.

7. Dorie's Tree

Henry was able to contact Patty Brennan and Alan suggested Tuesday Sept 8th for planting.

8. Realtors and Tree Companies

Nonny has found a central address for Real Estate Companies in western Mass and will send letter there.

9. Other Business

Alan will be away first 2 weeks in august.

He would like to remove a row of hemlocks in W. Cemetery and plant something more appropriate for the area.

UMass Serve provides opportunities for students to work in parks but seeks help with organizing and directing them in early Sept. Roger, Nonny and Henry responded as possible helpers.

A suggestion to plant some whip nut trees, (difficult to obtain more mature trees), was put on next meeting agenda.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 **Next meeting August 11 at 4:00pm**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melissa Perot