

# **Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee**

## **Minutes 9/8/15**

Present: Henry Lappen, (chair), Bob Erwin, Nonny Burack, Nancy Higgins, Roger Fega. and Alan Snow.

Absent: Melissa Perot

Visitors: Valerie Gilman, Richard Bentley, Thomas Riedy.

### **1. Public comment:**

Valerie Gilman, sculptor, is proposing an art/performance project to take place on the North Common on 1st October in conjunction with the October Art Walk. It will consist of a human figure over an armature between two trees. Alan will nod in as she progresses to ensure no damage to trunk or root.

Dick Bentley put in an early request for trees at the south end of North Prospect to be a buffer for the proposed municipal parking garage. Trees were granted with no hesitation.

Tom Riedy, attorney for Barry Tozloski, a contractor proposing development of seven building lots on Leverett Rd., requested permission to clear wooded frontage to give better visibility in and out. Alan to confer with Barry Tozloski before clearing - since it is a scenic road - so that nothing significant is removed.

### **2. Minutes:**

Minutes of 8/11/15 approved with one correction.

### **3. Chair report:**

A citizen's volunteer form for appointment to APSTC was submitted by Greg Keochakian. Since he did not attend this meeting, Nonny will telephone him to see if he is serious about joining.

Northampton's newly formed tree committee is up and running fast. Henry proposes we join them and they join us for respective tree plantings.

Chestnut Court has requested trees. Since it is Housing Authority property we cannot provide trees but if HUD (?) supplies we shall plant them next year.

Alan is way overworked and under staffed. The tree crew has dwindled since he began as tree warden four years ago, from four to one. He must now be tree foreman as well as tree warden. We talked about the need to impress the Select Board with the necessity for a full time foreman and a tree crew but agreed to table this for a month. Alan reported complaints about trees are way down this year.

#### **4. Tree Warden Report**

Three significant elms are coming down: on Amity St, Main St and West St. The first two had fatal root damage, the one on Amity St caused by Berkshire Gas: all three also have Dutch disease. In recent years the strain of Dutch disease fungus has become increasingly virulent, resisting available treatment. Eversource will do the removals.

Cowls Rd: Alan's crew inspected roots of the large spruce and the magnolia that seemed to be in the path of the proposed paving. Less than 10% of the large roots are in the way, which means that the trees are not threatened. **Gordon Green** will do the pruning of the Magnolia.

Dorie's tree: will be planted Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> 5pm at Kendrick Park. At 4.15 that afternoon **the committee** will meet at the Triangle St entrance to the West Cemetery for a site visit to the Hemlock hedge.

#### **5. ANTS:**

We have to begin soliciting NOW for next year. Putting information into packets that children take home from school was suggested. **Bob** will begin now to scout for sites for Saturday plantings for next year.

#### **6. Flyers:**

Mira Atherton has done them. They look great. She is working on "Ready, Set, Grow". A table at the winter farmers market will be a good place to distribute information and solicit ANTS sites.

#### **7. Town Ordinance Proposal:**

Alan reported much unhappiness with our \$90 diameter inch replacement fee that contributes, no doubt, to the difficulty in collecting it. We need a town ordinance to legitimize it. We shall study ordinances of other towns more successful and pricier, (Wellesley was mentioned). At next meeting we will begin to draft our own ordinance.

Adjourned at 5.45pm

**Next Meeting: October 13th**

Submitted by Nonny Burack, clerk pro tem.