

Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee

Minutes 10/13/15

Present: Henry Lappen, (chair), Nonny Burack, Nancy Higgins, Melissa Perot, Tom Lynn and Alan Snow

Visitors: Peter Wells from Berkshire Design and Garry Cook, owner of property at 36 to 38 S. East Street.

1. **Minutes** of 9/8/ 15 were approved with minor corrections.

2. Public comment: Peter Wells showed maps of the property at 36 to 38 S. East St and explained the need to bring the parking lot into compliance with Town ordinances. The plan showed the need to remove five trees, two of which are substantial white pines and the others saplings, in order to create a safer and more efficient parking plan that reduced the black top and protected wetlands behind. Mr. Cook is willing to pay the fine for the removal of the pine trees and is willing to add a shade tree in another location. S East Street is a scenic Rd and will come before a Planning Board hearing for approval. APSTC will make a site visit before then. Construction is unlikely to take place before next spring.

3. Committee vacancy: Greg Keochian, who submitted a volunteer form, was not present for this meeting. Nonny suggested we needed a procedure to follow up with new people..

4. **Treasurers report:** Bob absent. No treasurer's report.

5. Chair report: Henry reported that Dorie's tree was planted in Kendrick Park but it was small so Alan will try to get a larger Shagbark Hickory to replace it.

Alan explained the new procedure for payment of expenditures to reduce time lag for vendors. First, a quote is needed, then the form filled out and a vote taken before going to Alan. We voted to pay the invoice from Dorsey Memorials

Henry recommended New England Grows Inc, (newenglandgrows.org) as an excellent educational forum with a conference in Dec 2nd thru 4th in Boston with seminars though-out the day. Daily fee \$29, (less per day for all 3 days.) with possibly reimbursable. Alan also recommended DCR tree steward training and their electronic e-mail with news and information.

South Amherst High School reports use of fruit from trees planted. One Pawpaw tree died and will be replaced.

Other work to be completed is the information fliers and a Town Ordinance to strengthen the Tree Warden Policy with a 'hardship clause'. Committee members are encouraged to write articles and letters to the Editor.

6) Tree Warden report: Alan reported that he has put out bids to tree companies to remove 4 large trees, 2 on Kellog, 1 on Sunset and 1 off Hickory Lane on Echo Hill. The cost is estimated between \$6,000 and \$7,000. Alan will work with them and grind stumps. Alan said leaving trunks for habitat is not recommended and creates more work responding to complaints. DPW will be talking about Triangle St. roundabout on Oct 15th. 5 Trees will need to be removed according to the plan.

Alan attended the Western Mass Tree Wardens Meeting with 43 people attending. It included a \$25 buffet supper and could be open to committee members.

The Cherry tree given by Gretchen Ellen to Alan Snow that he raised and planted in the middle of the UMass roundabout will be removed to another location at their request.

The TD Bank gives grants in collaboration with the National Arbor Day Foundation for communities to plant in under served areas. Someone needs to research this if we want to apply. (Roger Faga offered to do this after the meeting).

7. ANTS

Nancy reported a good meeting was held at a Potwine Lane neighbor's house to plan for October 24th planting and refreshments. Michael, Tom and Susan will come. Scott Merzbach and Larry Kelly have been invited.

8. Fliers and water bill insert: See-Click-Fix is a new app for complaints on the town website. Alan requested we wait to send out our water bill insert until the app is ready and we can put on the card to go to that instead of calling him with questions.

9. Cemetery Hemlock hedge: following a site visit Alan reported that Town Manager and adjacent homeowners need to write letters with their concerns.

10. Other agenda items were postponed due to time restraints.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:35 **Next meeting Nov 10th at 4:00pm**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melissa Perot