

Town Of Amherst
Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee
Agenda 12/18/14
NEW TIME 7:00 PM

Present: Nonny Burack, Bob Erwin, Nancy Higgins, Michael Hutton-Woodland, Susan Phillips,

Absent: Henry Lappen, Melissa Perot

Town: Alan Snow

Guests: Lilly Lombard, Mollie Freilicker,

Location : Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room

Agenda:

Approval of Last Meetings minutes

Chair report (from Henry Lappen notes)

a. The New England grows conference is Feb. 4-6 in Boston. It's a good way to learn about trees and the industry and what is available for towns. I will try to go for at least one day.

Newenglandgrows.org

b. The new trees are in on both sides of Meadow St. Check them out! A few at Townhouse Apts. were planted in the wrong place (too close to the fence) and Alan will replant them in the spring.

c. Remind Alan to send Henry what information tree planting intern dug up already about landowners on the streets we are helping him with, and remind people to get out and find tree planting locations on the streets they've chosen. Alan reports that he has received some feedback from people already. Nonny will take Main Street.

d. Henry wants us to be more active in promoting our work and the rules about cutting down street trees. A brainstorm would be good as would getting people to agree to write or at least think about writing articles and letters. Letter to all the tree people, Nonny will help draft letter to tree services. Letter to the editor – Michael will draft. Susan will find the names of tree services. Perhaps go to the stores that sell chain saws. Alan notes that property owners are the ones ultimately responsible. Town has rental landlord database – information is public. Nancy will research about how to find a list. We could put a card

into the water bills from the Shade Tree Committee – include list of laws about cutting down trees.. Alan suggested talking to Guilford Mooring – Alan will check on this.

e. It might be good for us to look for new members and/or helpers. Ask people to think of people they might recommend. We don't need anyone right now but I'm thinking for the future. Personnel Action form will need to be filled out.

f. Check in with Nonny about the follow up list of people who have requested trees. Only 4 names on the list. Nonny will call them.

g. Henry thinks we should have a liaison to the Planning Board and maybe other boards. Any volunteers? This would be more active than Melissa just watching for upcoming meetings. Melissa goes to most Planning Board meetings – perhaps she could be the liaison.

Tree warden report –

- a. Alan prepares an annual service level report: 420 trees planted this year, under goal due to process of getting permissions, etc. Removed 134 trees; 286 trimmed. With new stump grinder: 22 stumps ground (First year grinding stumps).
- b. Prioritizing where they will plant new trees. Tree planting program purchased the stump grinding tool.
- c. 8 miles of roads were surveyed. Does not include utility company removal.
- d. Looking at planting along 116 if select board approves.
- e. Mass Tree Warden's annual meeting is coming up.
- f. Webcast coming up – Using software to view tree inventories and view eco-services from trees. Monday, 22nd 11:00 AM in conference room at DPW.

Treasurer's report – Bob thinks we need an operating statement for tree fund. Will try to do it January. Should go into Public Shade Tree Fund. No fund changes this month. Holly at Town of Amherst gives Bob the balance each month. Alan reports that Henry has the list of who has paid – Alan has the list. Tree warden is supposed to be the collection avenue. 3 tree hearings where people haven't paid fines. Bob will ask about how to collect the fees on the taxes. All agreed it is a confusing process.

First Saturday plantings 2015 – Bob –

1. Route 9 - Border of Cooley Dickinson Clinic parking lot
2. Pondview Drive – circular park on north side of street
3. Middle Street
4. Crocker Farm School
5. Evening Star – private lane ?
6. Alan is coordinating Arbor Day service – prune fertilize, plant April 25.

7. Puffton Village – South East Street.

Dates: April 4, May 2, May 4, June 6, July 11, Sept 5, Oct 3rd

Promoting our work and laws about tree removal – discussed above.

Making our presence known at town meetings – discussed above

Request list follow up – Nonny – discussed above.

Plaques – Nonny – go and see them.

Poster contest – Melissa and Nonny - Don't know how to begin. Starting over from scratch. Michael will approach the Crocker Farm School.

Future meeting times – Move back to Tuesday, January 20th 4-6 PM.

Other items:

Mollie at UMass campus– Arbor Day Poster Contest – Statewide for 5th graders Trees are Champions in our Community” Building website – nominate Tree Champions – girth – crown spread- height. Grant program to fund strategic planting projects. . Wood banks opening in New Salem – cut trees processed by volunteers – pallet of firewood. Donated log splitter helped.

Alan needs our projects for 2014 for the Tree USA, needs it by next week.

Nonny: found some tree planter stickers. Will get quotes for stickers to announce our planting in tree planters.

Nancy showed pictures for the ANTS poster for next year.

Michael announced he will need to resign from the Public Shade Tree Committee due to a new job that demands time. He will submit a resignation letter to Henry.

Lilly Lombard from Northampton – new tree committee chair introduced herself, along with the new Tree Warden. Warmly welcomed to our meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michael S. Hutton-Woodland