

## **DRAFT Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee Minutes 11/10/15**

Present: Henry Lappen, (chair), Nonny Burack, Nancy Higgins, Melissa Perot, Roger Faga, Bob Erwin and Alan Snow

Visitors: Brady Yacek, Greg Keochian, Mira Atherton, (Mt Holyoke College)

1. **Minutes** of 10/13/15 were approved with minor corrections.

**2. Public comment:** Brady introduced himself as the UMass Arborist interested in our committee and opportunities for collaboration and training. Greg is a resident of Amherst who has submitted a formal application to Town Hall. He showed his worth to the committee at the Crocker Farm tree planting and has a wide interest in trees as an asset to the community.

**3. Treasurers Report:** Bob reported none was available at this time.

**4. Chair report:** Henry reported that he hoped Greg would fill the committee vacancy. He also had interest from Judith Williams and Janee Intravaia who helped with Colonial Village planting.

-Alan has replaced Dorie's Tree with a somewhat larger Shagbark Hickory.

-Henry encouraged members to attend NE Grows Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> in New York.

He had a good experience there last year. ([www.newenglandgrows.org](http://www.newenglandgrows.org))

-Seeclickfix, (<http://en.seeclickfix.com/us-ma-amherst>) is working. Alan and Henry supported its use to document public input into the administrative process of town departments. It will be added to the tree cutting notification to go out with the water bill.

-SB has suggested we again nominate Alan for Tree Warden of the Year. Henry will fill out the form and send it.

-Scott Merzbach, who used to attend Tree meetings, has had his office transferred to Northampton. His presence will be missed.

-Henry proposes to use land at Co housing on Pulpit Road to start a nursery for Turkish Hazelnut trees. Alan thought it would be grant worthy.

-Henry gave Nonny tree lists for her to contact owners.

-**Nov 18<sup>th</sup>** 7.00 PB tree hearing for 36-38 South East St

**5) Tree Warden Report:** Alan reported that Amherst has been a Tree City USA for 28 years and to continue application is due Jan 1<sup>st</sup> documenting all activities of the committee through the year. Nonny agreed to compile a list for Henry and Mira to complete necessary documentation by Dec.

-Alan regretted the absence of media, although invited, at the ANTS event which was the best ever. He suggested Nancy write a letter to the Editor thanking the participants enclosing photos.

-Hadley Garden Center has donated 30 good trees to overwinter and plant next year. Henry will write a public letter thanking them.

-Alan has worked with the police neighborhood liaison officer and the community on tree related issues regarding visibility in a troublesome area on Phillips and Nutting Sts.

**6) ANTS:** Nancy thanked Alan for his work on a very successful and enjoyable event on Potwine Lane which drew the greatest number of neighbors and children participating in planting a wide variety of trees. Adam Sitze proved to be a great host for the occasion. Members need to review Tom's photos and choose their favorite for next year's posters.

**7) Site visit follow up:** There was no opposition at this time to the Kenrick park rotary plans that are not finalized. **The committee voted** 4 to 1 with 1 abstention not to oppose tree removal at 36-38 SE Street.

**8) 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday plantings 2016:** Bob reported he has selected 5 locations and made notes on them. Henry asked to add Colonial Village and Rolling Green and suggested other work be planned for March and August when trees are not planted.

**9) TD Bank program:** Roger reported that he had been given significant encouragement to proceed with a grant application to plant trees in low income areas. He suggested an alliance with Hampshire Co. Habitat since they are active in Amherst and have work underway at Hawthorn Farm. Other alliances might include Grow Food Amherst and the Housing Authority. Greg agreed to partner with Roger on this effort.

**10) Town Ordinance drafting:** Melissa and Nonny reviewed Lexington Town Ordinance. Henry, Nonny and Mira will **meet Nov 11<sup>th</sup>** to determine next steps.

**11) Other Business:** Roger distributed copies of Trees of Amherst. He reported that Friends of Mt Pollux are anxious to remove trees to improve the view. Bob has written a letter to the Bulletin and suggested we counter this impulse with tree planting.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 **Next meeting Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melissa Perot