

FINAL MINUTES

Great Barrington Tree Committee Meeting Wednesday, December 21 2022, 5pm Great Barrington Town Hall

Chairperson: Julie Anidjar

Vice-Chairperson: Michael Peretti

Secretary: Gary Frenkel

Also present:

- Joe Aberdale, public works superintendent
- Committee member Mary Stephen

Approval of previous meeting's notes, unanimous approval from all members

I. Tree Warden Report

- Everett street: 2 trees removed (Norway maple, sugar maple) - in decline, poor structural condition

II. Discussion with Joe Aberdale of the Department of Public Works regarding planting budget

- Budget:
 - Current budget has no money allocated for trees, need to ask for funds from DPW or town budget when specific needs arise
 - Tree removal/maintenance budget is roughly \$115K
 - How to get money to fund town tree projects: town meeting approval, grants, CPC (community preservation)
 - If by June 30 there is extra DPW budget it may be able to be reapplied to street trees
 - Residents can gift the town money to plant trees as well
- Process:
 - DPW approves all tree costs, not just in parks
 - DPW doesn't borrow the money for a project that has been approved until it's ready to be utilized
 - Tree removal goes through warden (M. Peretti) then needs to be approved and executed by DPW
 - Selectboard meeting approves utility (National Grid) tree removals
 - Tree projects associated with parks should coordinate with CPC Parks Commissioner (Karen Smith)
 - Can be challenging to know where the property line is between private residences and town
- Project Updates:
 - 9 new trees in Housatonic paid for by park dept; \$12,000 quote reduced to \$3,400 by planting bare root trees
 - Town approved a landscaper in the 2023 budget; Main Street gardens top concern
 - # of trees removed in 2020: 44 from warden, 107 from National Grid
 - # of trees removed in 2022: 27 warden / 20 NG (are these final 2022 numbers?)

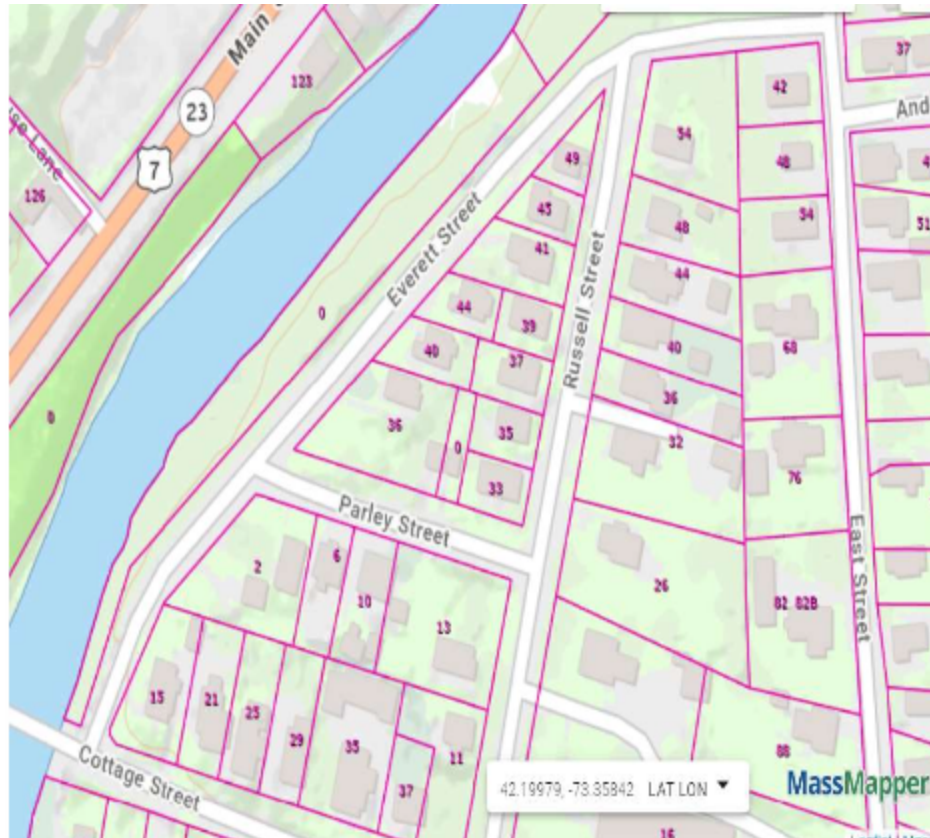
- Roundabout has seen multiple DUI/DWI that have impacted trees; DPW working to improve safety
- Opportunities:
 - Dewey park has space for trees
 - West ave from castle to maple, Lewis from west to Berkshire heights - sidewalk extension project may require tree removal of large pines
- Action Items:
 - Prioritize some projects with budget for 2024 in time for March 2023 budget planning; Joe will incorporate in to 2024 capital budget
 - Get buy-in from impacted town residents and ask them to join the town meeting to vote to approve budget
 - Let residents know about town gift/memorial program
 - Talk to Parks commission about Dewey Park tree planting - public hearings may be scheduled soon
 - There may be opportunities to get involved with Main Street and roundabout plantings
 - Long term planning as an agenda item in every Tree Committee meeting

III. Tree City USA application

- Julie received materials to restart application process
- 2019 last time we were engaged
- Action Item: Julie to send Mike the info she needs to complete the application

IV. Planting plans for sections of Everett Street and Hollenbeck Avenue

- See map and photos below of Everett St
- Hollenbeck residents engaged with process already
- Action Item: ask impacted residents to participate in discussion (maybe Feb TC meeting?)











V. Inclusion of photography in meeting minutes, reaching out to residents, Gary Frenkel

- We can include photos in meeting minutes, but not video

- Can include Tree Committee in annual mailer to residents
- Action Item: Gary to find out deadline for annual mailer

VI. Citizen Speak

- How to promote town tree activities
 - Action Item: Gary to propose website for town trees
 - Action Item: Committee needs to plan for Arbor Day (last Fri in April)
- Consider zoom for next meetings
- Action Item: Discuss how to join tree committee / participants to next agenda
- Castle Hill bet prospect and Hollenbeck - resident wants to cut trees that are on town property

VII. Adjournment, 6:38pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 5pm

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Frenkel

Secretary, Great Barrington Tree Committee