

Great Barrington Massachusetts
Tree Committee Minutes September 4, 2019

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm.

Members Present: Holly Hamer, Shep Evans, Hilda Shapiro, Marcia Stamell, Eva Ward, Michael Peretti

I. Minutes from the August 7, 2019 meeting accepted.

II. Tree Warden Report

The MacDonald's on Stockbridge Road has agreed to take care of the sycamore owned by the state near the property. The management has asked Tom Ingersoll to examine the tree.

The old elms are threatened because it's been a tough year for trees, in general, in part because of the wet spring. The large elm in front of Seward's Tire on Route 7, also state owned, for example, has Dutch elm disease. Because of this, the elm tree in front of Town Hall will get treated and fertilized a year earlier, on a two, rather than three year schedule. He is trying to get a meeting with Tom Ingersoll about replacing the spruce that died in front of Town Hall with another of similar size.

III. Old Business

The deed for the Mahaiwe Cemetery forbids any other active use. This rules out both a town dog park and a related chestnut tree preserve.

The triangular planting areas at the top of Railroad Street are too small for trees, according to Ms. Ward. Other types of plantings would be out of the purview of the Tree Committee.

Sean van Deusen at the DPW has proposed planting pollinator flowers in the Main Street tree wells. The questions remains: how can these be watered? There are few outside faucets downtown. The Committee needs to draw up a plan for watering the wells, whether they have flowers or not.

An intention to apply is due for both the \$2,500 National Grid grant for tree plantings and/or the \$7,000 to \$20,000 DCR grant for other tree related projects. The Committee felt tree plantings near downtown streets which have had infrastructure improvements would be a direction to take. The goal is to further encourage pedestrian traffic.

Still looking for another member.

III. New Business

The exceptional tree workday will be Saturday, September 28, from 1:30 to 3:30. The GB Land Conservancy project, which will promote the health of the read oak located near Searles School on Bridge Street, will include an education session by Tom Ingersoll.

V. Citizen Speak - None

Meeting closed at 6:18pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcia Stamell

Next meeting November 6, 2019

