

## Great Barrington Massachusetts Tree Committee Minutes August 7, 2019

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm

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

I. Minutes from the June 5, 2019 meeting will be corrected by Holly Hamer

### II. Tree Warden Report

Diseased elm trees near the Division Street Bridge and the new canoe launch were removed with the approval of the Conservation Commission.

Two trees in front of Lee Bank and Mason Library were replaced with red maples. The plantings included water bags.

Four Sargent cherry trees were planted on Church and Bridge Streets by Ward's Nursery

Sean Van Deusen (DPW) seeks recommendations for small triangular planting boxes at the top of Railroad Street. Currently there are seasonal sunflowers but a more permanent solution is sought. Eva Ward will take a look.

All Main Street trees are fertilized.

### III. Old Business

The sugar maple at 546 Main Street was 90 percent pruned before the owner of the property that the tree extends over asked for the work to be stopped. Consequently, the tree was not fed.

The committee needs to prioritize the replacement schedule for the replacement of trees along Main Street. There are at least 10 amelanchier and two crab apples

that are in decline or dead. Criteria for replacement trees should include sustainability, drought tolerance and appropriateness for urban use.

A State grant is available for \$2500 to be used for new plantings to offset National Grid tree takedowns. Mr. Peretti asked that the grant be submitted by the Tree Co.

Intention to file for that or other DNCR Urban grants is due Oct 1. One possibility is a chestnut preserve adjacent to the South Main Street cemetery in conjunction with a new dog park, if such use is permitted.

Member recruitment. We are seeking one new member and that person or other to volunteer as committee secretary.

#### IV. New Business

The committee has voted to support an exceptional tree celebration, likely in late September, to promote the health of the red oak located near the Searles School on Bridge Street on the Housatonic riverbank. The event is spearheaded by the Great Barrington Land Conservancy and will involve a workday to improved the soil around the tree.

V. Citizen speak- no comments Meeting closed at 6:25 pm

Next meeting Sept. 4, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcia Stamell