

APPROVED MINUTES
approved on Wed Dec 21

Great Barrington Tree Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 16 2022, 5pm
GB Town Hall

Chairperson: Julie Anidjar

Vice-Chairperson: Michael Peretti

Secretary: Gary Frenkel

Also present: committee member Mary Stephen

- Elected Julie, Michael, Gary to committee positions above (all 4-0 votes)
- Julie to provide meeting agenda; Gary to produce meeting notes

Housatonic

- Trees planted in late October at Housatonic playground. Coordinated with town superintendent, parks department
- Removed and replaced tulip tree, added 2 more
- 3 new harmony elm trees
- 3 red maple trees
- 1 swamp white oak tree
- Tom Ingersoll contractor who prepared the planting purchased from Chestnut Ridge Nursery in Orchard Park NY
- Joe Aberdale, public works superintendent arranged for water 2x week with support from the fire department

McDonalds

- Chris Rembold nudged McDonalds real estate to complete the tree planting (2 Katsura, 2 American elms)
- They are working on it
- TBD timing and watering
- Some pushback from the planning board about non-native species

Discussion of native vs introduced trees. Many trees grow well here and are not native and may do better here due to climate change. Perhaps native species would be better served in parks, with openness to introduced species for street and other showcase trees.

Need to update recommended tree list, perhaps indicate which are native

Tree warden report:

- Regular maintenance of street trees
- 12 requests for maintenance of community trees (most are removals, some cabling, pruning)
- Working with National Grid on pruning tree on Avery Ln

New business:

- 2 trees on Everett St (sugar maple, Norway maple) are set to be removed - would be ideal to plant replacements
- Need to meet with Joe, DPW Superintendent to understand town tree budget
- When a resident removes a town tree, it is against the law and they may be fined - let the warden know (add to town website)
- Consider a yearly newsletter mailed to all residents about recommended trees, town vs state vs private property, processes, contacts, perhaps tied to Arbor Day
- Can we explore plantings in town cemeteries?
- Can we improve the trees on Main St, less ornamental, more shade?
- Tree City USA - need to get started on 2023 application.
- How do we create a town tree inventory? Have some trees inventoried on main st and other recent projects. Alternately, deprioritize inventorying for identifying opportunities for planting new trees, identify high profile risk trees
- Dewey/Grove St parks have opportunities for planting
- 2nd Wed of every month. TC meetings while we get our process going

Action items:

- Julie to reach out to Joe DPW Super to learn more about budgeting and process
- Recommend plantings for Everett St (removing 2, could plant ~6)
- Gary to ask Amy Pulver (selectman's secretary, maybe IT) multimedia updates about yearly newsletter possibility
- Julie to ask Tom Norton if he wants to join the committee (Housatonic representation)
- Ask Holly for previous Tree City application
- Note places for new plantings, showcase trees at risk

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 14 2022, 5pm

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Frenkel

Secretary, Great Barrington Tree Committee