

FINAL MINUTES

Great Barrington Tree Committee Meeting Wednesday, March 8 2023, 5pm Mason Library

Chairperson: Julie Anidjar

Vice-Chairperson: Michael Peretti

Secretary: Gary Frenkel

Also present:

- Mary Stephen, committee member

Approval of previous meeting's notes (Feb 8), unanimous approval from all members

I. Tree Warden Report

- Quiet month
- Town tree limb fall caused property damage, submitted to Town Hall for damage reimbursement

II. Tree City USA status:

- Selectboard proclaimed 2022 Arbor Day, documents have been completed
- Matthew Cahill (MA Dept of Conservation Resources), received proclamation, will submit to Arbor Day Foundation
- Not official yet, but should be finalized this month
- Selectboard also proclaimed 2023 Arbor Day (Apr 28)
- The actual celebration of GB Arbor Day will be on Apr 21 so the full Tree Committee can participate and take advantage of the school holiday

III. Arbor Day planning:

- Friday April 21, 1-4pm, Mason Library will be the hub for activities
- Greg Ward is donating 100 seedlings
- Library website will promote Apr 21 Arbor Day with agenda, includes tree activities, crafts, snacks, book displays, tree advice from GB
- Julie to create some decorations to celebrate Arbor Day at the library
- Co-op cafe is willing to hang tree-related art and other messaging at beginning of month
- Reed's dry cleaner would also be open to providing some promotional space
- Looking at town social media, newspaper ads, and other promotional opportunities
- Can we place ribbons or other markers around town trees? Need to give a heads up to DPW
- Michael to ask town Eric Haupt (town tree contractor) to do some pruning of town tree as a donation

IV. Discussion of long-term planting strategy for submission to DPW

- Should we consider more public and accessible locations?
- Parks committee is looking at adding a playground — and potentially other leisure activities including shade trees — at Dewey Courthouse.
- DPW budget includes \$20K for trees
- Julie created a Google Earth map with opportunities for planting
- Can we replace trees that have been removed?

- New sidewalks on West St from Lewis to Maple in 2023, lots of planting opportunities
- Talking to Planning board about incorporating trees into permits and other planning
- Planning meeting Wed Mar 9 6pm: proposal to increase the distance from 25' -> 50' for new trees on Stockbridge Rd (Route 7)

V. Website update, Gary Frenkel

- Add Arbor Day agenda
- Gary to research recommended links for updating website

VI. Citizen Speak

- Memorial tree program: Gary needs to follow up to understand this program
- Donations: can we do a round up at Co-op? Can citizens donate and how? How can TC be included in the process?

VII. Adjournment

Next meeting: Wed Apr 5, 5pm