

FINAL MINUTES

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

Chairperson: Julie Anidjar

Vice-Chairperson: Michael Peretti

Secretary: Gary Frenkel

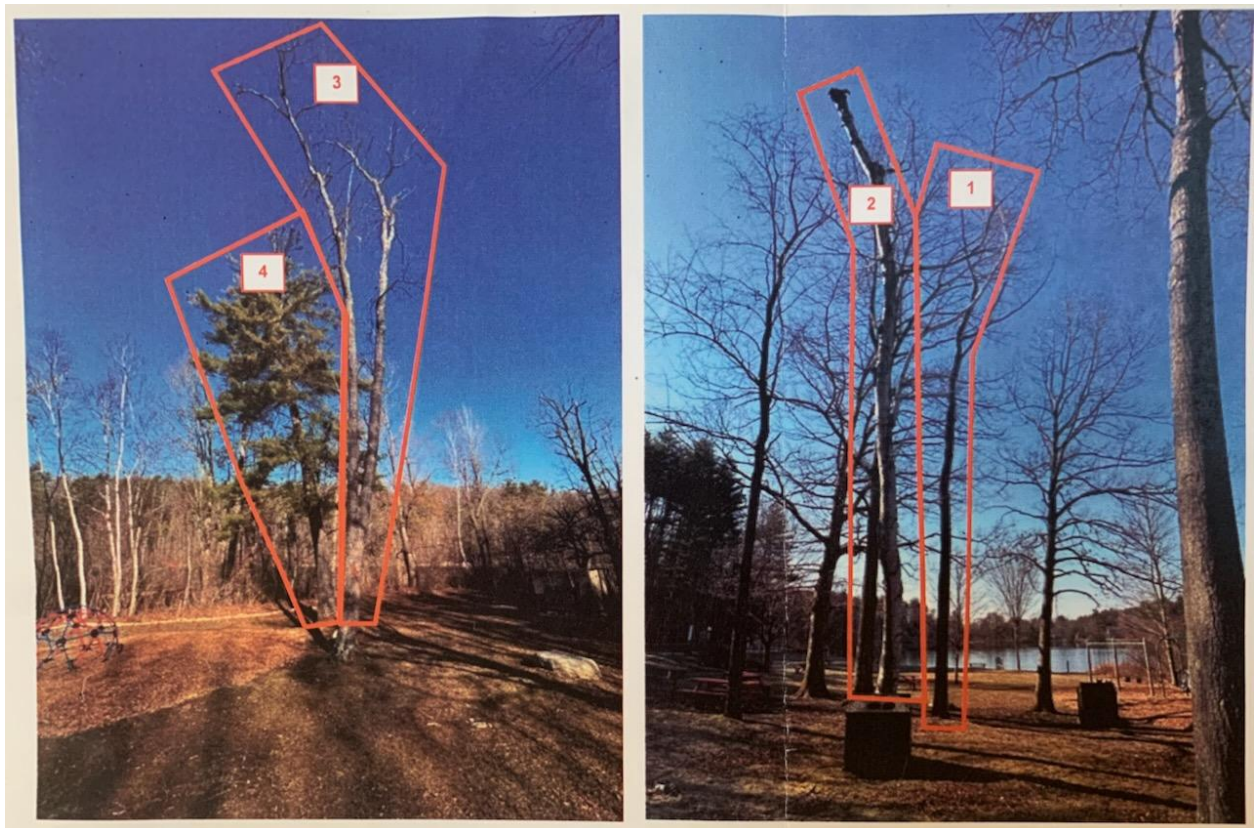
Also present:

- Mary Stephen, committee member
- James Garzon, citizen
- Sharon Gregory, citizen
- Vivian Orlowski, citizen (on phone)

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

I. Tree Warden Report

- Lake Mansfield beach park: 3 trees in playground removed (#1-3 below) as they were in poor health or storm damaged; white pine (#4 below) was deemed acceptable by arborist and was not removed



II. Tree City USA status:

- Still haven't received approval from Arbor Day Foundation, Michael will nudge Matthew Cahill (MA Dept of Conservation Resources)

III. Arbor Day planning:

- Friday April 21, 1-4pm, Mason Library will be the hub for activities
- Mason Library has Arbor Day agenda on their website, Gary to add to TC website
- Windows at Ried Cleaners will be filled with tree prints (Thomas Libetti, artist)
- Decided not to move forward with Co-op installation, can discuss with Railroad Street Youth Project on Arbor Day 2024 installation
- Julie creating banner for table
- Michael to follow up with Greg Ward to coordinate seedling delivery
- Ward's will be donating White oak seedlings, Gary to prepare one-sheet on how to plant
- TC to meet at library to set up at 12pm
- Sharon Gregory is starting a citizen eco task force, will also be participating in Arbor Day
- Julie to look into Berkshire Edge announcement
- Eric Haupt will donate pruning of the Main St heritage elm
- Julie to create a flier to post around town

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

- DPW removed \$20K tree planting budget, will request to return it to the budget in town meeting on May 1; Julie to prepare in writing prior
- \$115K in budget for tree maintenance
- Gary to provide Julie with notes on trees removed / planted (include Michael to validate latest numbers)
- \$500-\$1,000 per new tree (so \$20K = 20-40 new trees)
- Planning board is considering keeping distance between trees at 25' (50' was proposed) on Stockbridge Rd; also requested that trees get replaced as they die/removed
- Will invite planning board to join the next TC meeting

V. Website update, Gary Frenkel

- Gary to add links to website to pests, planting recommendations
- Gary to add callout to website to Arbor Day seedling one-sheet

VI. Citizen Speak

- Vivian:
 - 2018 GB pollinator action plan - started pre-pandemic
 - Can be downloaded from <https://www.townofgb.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif636/f/uploads/greatbarringtonpollinatoractionplan2018.pdf>
 - 80+ sites along Main St
 - Presented to Selectboard, approved plan (see website)
 - Town Superintendent solicited contractors to prepare planting plan
 - Non-local contractor was hired but many of the plants didn't survive
 - Devin Arnold prepared a new plan, can TC collaborate with Agricultural committee on getting it funded?

VII. Adjournment

Next meeting: Wed May 10, 5pm, possibly with Zoom (Gary to investigate)