

Tree Committee

March 8, 2018, Mason Library

I. Lisa Bozzuto called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Present were members J. B. Brodeur, Beth Moser, Hilda Banks Shapiro, Michael Wise, Michael Piretti. Absent: Nan Wile, Chris Wilshire.

II. Minutes of the meeting of December 6 were approved, without objection.

III. Old business

A. Tree planting budget

There is \$5000 in the proposed budget for tree planting; Piretti said it was taken out of the Parks budget. This will come up at town meeting.

IV. New business

A. Arbor Day planning

Hilda has put together a poetry contest and brought flyers. We need to document the media publicity, for the Tree City application. Hilda will deliver them to the English teachers at the schools. Hilda will send it to the Shoppers Guide and the Record; Beth will approach the Edge.

Another Arbor Day project is for Molly, from DCR, to help with the emerald ash borer assessment. Mike Piretti will accompany; Bozzuto will check on Molly's schedule the week of Arbor Day, and she will attend a symposium that week in Pittsfield on the emerald ash borer project. Piretti noted that the Stockbridge Road green ashes on state land on the east side of the road are in poor condition, and there are many ashes on Gilmore Street; Lisa asked what it might cost to take out the poor ones and replace them.

Other possible projects: Pruning the apple tree in front of Mason Library and the crabapples by the Housatonic playground. Hilda will check with the library trustees about the one at the library. Piretti will inquire about arborists who might be available to help. Bozzuto will look into getting Heritage Tree status, through DCR, for the Stockbridge Road sycamore tree. Piretti noted that the town spent about \$1500 on that tree last year (in addition to arborists' time, which was donated).

Looking farther ahead, Buzzuto suggesting planting something at Ramsdell, perhaps a flowering tree; it would have to be approved by the Friends of the Library.

B. Report on trees planted

Brodeur is working on a report about the trees that the Committee has planted. Piretti will put together a list of what has been done; this will be easier than poring over the minutes.

C. National Grid trimming

Piretti said National Grid will be doing maintenance, some of which might be controversial. He has noticed that several big trees on Vandeusenville Road have been marked, near the power lines that now serve the solar farms. Many ash trees have been marked; it will save the town some money for National Grid to take those out.


V. Citizen speak time

None.

VI. General

A. The next meeting will be April 4, 2018, at 5:30.

The meeting adjourned without objection at 5:27 PM.

  
4/10/18