

FINAL MINUTES

Great Barrington Tree Committee Meeting Wednesday, June 14 2023, 5pm Mason Library

Chairperson: Julie Anidjar

Vice-Chairperson: Michael Peretti

Secretary: Gary Frenkel (phone)

Also present:

- Mary Stephen, committee member
- Bobby Houston, committee member
- Brooke Davida, new committee member

Approval of previous meeting's notes (May 10), unanimous approval from all committee members

I. Tree Warden Report

- Wrapping up FY-2023
- 26 work orders processed
- Lost a crabapple tree on Main St due to hit-and-run near Cumberland Farms
 - Will request a replacement tree in the FY-2024 budget, likely another small ornamental tree
- Pruned a bit in town central, including failing cherry tree on Bridge St:



II. Tree Planting Strategy – discussion with Joe Aberdale (Public Works Superintendent)

- \$20,000 allotted in FY-2024 budget for tree planting/maintenance
- Ad hoc tree replacement - no need for Selectboard involvement, but an email heads up to Joe or Mark Pruhenski (Town Manager) would be a good practice

- Any “project” (more than a couple of trees, public spaces, etc.) requires Selectboard approval
- Some plantings can be done by DPW, others may require outside planting service
- Bare root plantings (late fall) ideal
- Housatonic park needs more shade trees, want to increase plantings along the fence line
- Some projects leverage DPW budget, not tree committee
- \$500-\$700 per tree, basic install/maintenance can be handled by DPW
- Plan: identify spaces, get support from impacted people, approval/heads up to selectboard
- DPW has a full-time landscaper now
- DPW will be planting new trees in the Roundabout, working with Ward’s on planting plan

III. CPA funding – continued

- [didn’t discuss]

IV. Memorial Tree Program – continued

- Not much visibility into this program
- Don’t believe anyone has participated?
- Could the TC dedicate a tree from the FY24 budget for promoting the memorial program? Hilda Banks Shapiro would be a good candidate
- Use social media to promote

V. Call for additional locations to Tree Planting Plan

- Evolving planting Google map:
https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1CfSdeu3UNfMPS4luo2hP6jnxhnF7ak&usp=sharing_eil_m
- Everett St
- Hollenbeck Ave
- Berkshire Block - Bridge St cherry - Berkshire Block (get photo from Bobby)
- Taconic parking lot - replacement for birches that were removed during renovation
 - Need to make sure planting sites are on town property — might be owned by Carr’s Hardware
 - Good spot for large shade trees
- In front of Mason library could use a big shade tree (e.g. another shademaster honeylocust?)
- Action item: TC members should visit each site and recommend what species to plant
 - Tree species list:
https://www.townofgb.org/sites/g/files/vyhli636/f/uploads/gb_tree_list_for_planting_.pdf
- Plan: identify spaces, get support from impacted people, approval/heads up to Joe/Mark or Selectboard if bigger

VI. Tree List revision - ongoing

- Ongoing effort to revise list of town recommended trees; will continue to discuss in subsequent meetings
- Loose goal to present revised list by September
- Action item: suggest additional trees

VII. Citizen Speak

- N/A

VIII. New Business

- Can we combine the memorial program with the Champion/Showcase Tree?

- Create a Google Map layer for each type of tree — new plantings, champion/showcase, memorials, proposed plantings
- Guido's parking lot requires trees that have yet to be planted
- Can we provide tree advice to cemetery commission for cemetery north of Big Y?

IX. Adjournment

- 5:53pm

Next meeting: Wed Jul 12, 5pm, Mason Library & Zoom

Submitted by:

Gary Frenkel

Secretary, Great Barrington Tree Committee