

FINAL MINUTES

Great Barrington Tree Committee Meeting Wednesday, September 13 2023, 5pm Mason Library & Zoom

Chairperson: Julie Anidjar

Vice-Chairperson: Michael Peretti

Secretary: Gary Frenkel

Also present:

- Bobby Houston, committee member
- Brooke Davida, committee member
- Natasha Perlis, committee member (via Zoom)

Approval of previous meeting's notes (Aug 9), unanimous approval from all committee members

I. Yearly Committee Office Vote

Julie Anidjar, Michael Peretti, Gary Frenkel – unanimous approval by all committee members for officers to remain in current roles for another term

II. Tree Warden Report

- Elmwood Cemetery (GB) spruce tree removed
- Pruned a norway maple tree on Blue Hill Rd (GB)
- Lost a major leader on an ash tree on Gilmore Ave (GB)
- Stump grinding completed on Everett St (GB) and Front St (H)
- National Grid doing line trimming on Blue Hill and Monument Valley (GB)
- 7 pine trees to be removed on West Ave (GB) to extend sidewalk near hospital
- Butternut removed between town hall and St James (GB), can accommodate a new tree

II. Tree Planting Strategy, Continued

a. Roundabout and Main Street – update Tree Warden with our recommendation

Project moved so fast, TC should have been consulted

b. Castle Hill Avenue at Sumner Street - continued

Stump is still there so not part of this planting cycle

c. Taconic Avenue – St. James – update on discussion with owner of abutting

Property near people's pantry

Owners are good with new trees

London Planetree recommended

d. Other locations in Housatonic and GB

Town Hall / St James

Scarlet Oak

Taconic Lot behind Carr's

4 white paper birches recommended

216 South St Housatonic
Sugar maple recommended

18 Sumner St
Lost a maple years ago, room for 2 big trees
2 red maples recommended

121 Hollebeck (near Castle Hill)
Consider this for next planting cycle

Railroad St Youth Project near basketball court
Need parks dept to support this, not a town site
Action item: Julie & Bobby to work with Chris to request this from the parks dept

Front St near playground (H)
Owner undecided

III. Finalize planting plan for DPW for autumn 2023
Gary to send consolidated recommendations to committee for final review, then Julie to forward to Joe Aberdale

IV. Stockbridge Road/Rt 7 and the D.O.T. – new discussion with Pedro Pachano (on the planning Board, but not speaking on behalf of the board)
It is his understanding that DOT would be open to discussion for improving tree planting - Julie to initiate contact
Some of the trees are in the jurisdiction of GB – 6.2 in the bylaw – need to use our approved list, planning board involved in these projects, requirement for trees along the frontage of lots (every 25' one deciduous tree) facing Rt 7.
Planning Board can include us when projects come before them.
Guido's just planted 4 new trees today tied to one of these projects.
TC needs to be responsible for tree approval and enforcement, request copy of site plans – agenda next meeting - Pedro will try and loop us in when possible

V. Citizen Speak / New Business
Belcher Sq (GB) - honeylocust and 2 maples cut down
Replace with American Sycamore x3

VI. Adjournment 5:58pm

Next meeting: Wed Oct 11, 5pm, Mason Library & Zoom

Submitted by:
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