

## **FINAL MINUTES**

# **Great Barrington Tree Committee Meeting**

## **Wednesday, October 11 2023, 5pm**

### **Mason Library & Zoom**

Chairperson: Julie Anidjar

Vice-Chairperson: Michael Peretti, not in attendance

Secretary: Gary Frenkel

Also present:

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

Approval of previous meeting's notes (Sep 13), unanimous approval from all committee attendees

#### **I. Tree Warden Report**

- Warden didn't attend meeting

#### **II. Update on fall plantings for 2023**

- No update received from Joe Aberdale, will discuss in Nov meeting

#### **III. Town Master Plan discussion - Pedro Pachano**

- Pedro is a member of the town planning board
- Master plan - guide for town growth and development, released every 10-20 years, establishes common goals/priorities, capital expenditures, should inform all town boards, can help secure grant funding
- Previous master plan is 10 yrs old, reaching out to all town boards to see how they did on the prior plan goals
- Master plan from 2013 included one tree committee item: using the expertise of the TC, how better to care for town trees, develop a tree plan for maintenance / protection / promotion
- The town planner's office asserted the TC has made good progress against this plan
- Looking for feedback from TC on contributions to the master plan - within the next couple of weeks
- Link to master plan on town website [<https://www.townofgb.org/planning-department>]
  - Vol 1 is historical record, Vol 2 is the 2013 plan
- Categories: character, community, connections, commerce - each have subcategories
- Action item: committee to suggest ideas for master plan and discuss/vote by next meeting

#### **IV. Updating official tree list, presentation to selectboard Nov 20**

- Gary to present to selectboard Nov 20

#### **V. Tree City USA 2023 application**

- Will discuss in Nov meeting

#### **VI. D.O.T. – Stockbridge Road plans**

- Action item: Julie to speak with Chris Rembold

VII. New Business - ideas for community-funded planting

- Julie reviewed how we received this year's funding for tree planting / maintenance via the town budgeting process; will likely request \$50,000 in next year's budget
- Consider Arbor Day as an opportunity to get citizens to plant trees, perhaps involving local nurseries - will revive this conversation in the new year

VIII. Citizen Speak

- Chris Wiltshire asked if we could plant smaller trees so we can plant more with our budget; committee believes the \$1,000/tree estimate covers tree, labor, maintenance and smaller trees will require more maintenance
- Maybe we revisit the memorial tree program to extend to general tree donation, and offer smaller trees as an option
- Advise that citizens contact Joe Aberdale with their feedback on town plantings
- Can Ward's provide us with smaller trees
- Action item: revisiting cost per tree and consider planting smaller trees

IX. Adjournment, 5:54pm

Next meeting: Wed Nov 8, 5pm, Mason Library & Zoom

Submitted by:

Gary Frenkel

Secretary, Great Barrington Tree Committee

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