Tree Committee

November 1, 2017, Mason Library

I. Lisa Bozzuto called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Present were members Michael Wise, Nan Wile, Hilda Banks Shapiro, Michael Piretti. Absent: Beth Moser, J. B. Brodeur, Chris Wilshire. Also present: Dora Hviid, from the Berkshire Botanical Garden.

II. Minutes of the meeting of October 4, 2017 were approved, as corrected by the chair.

III. Old business

A. Tree City

The application is in and submitted.

IV. New business

A. Berkshire Botanical Garden

Wile proposes joining with a larger body like the Berkshire Botanical Garden to raise our profile. BBG has a fall event (which was held last week), coordinated with arborists and another non-profit. They meet earlier in the year to identify a site, which is typically responsible for publicity. There is an educational component, which sometimes involves paying a speaker. The arborists who participate (sometimes as many as 25) get continuing education credit. Sites that BBG has worked with include the Norman Rockwell Museum, the Mount, the New Marlborough historic cemetery, Bidwell House, Riverwalk, a mixed housing development. Wile also is interested in coordination with the town housing authority for work around the senior center. Hviid can bring this up with her group in February. BBG always has a tree-planting class on Arbor Day. Hviid will consider other ways we might work together.

B. Subcommittee for grants

Bozzuto suggests asking Brodeur and Moser about this; she will discuss it with them at the next meeting

C. Monitoring emerald ash borers

Piretti has discussed this with DPW. There are five large ash trees along Gilmore that deserve to be treated, in preparation for some paving and sidewalk work. DPW had wanted to cut them down, but Piretti thinks they might be saved. This costs several hundred dollars per tree, and it has to be repeated every two years. There are other candidates around town. Bozzuto plans to walk the main streets to identify them in the spring; Wile will come along. Hviid suggested a contact at DCR, Ken Kooch, to consult about treatment. Bozzuto thought there might be grant money through DCR.

D. Report on trees planted

J. B. was not present to make this report.

E. Request for planting

Bozzuto said that the tree budget has gone up to $60,000. Although there is not a separate line for planting, that fund could be used for planting as well as maintenance. Piretti said that two red maples were just acquired, to be planted on Prospect and Everett; he moved to do this now because it was timely. If there were a larger, dedicated planting item, we could make this a larger project. Bozzuto and Piretti will approach DPW to try to get this into the FY19 budget. Replacing the library tree with another sugar maple was approved at the last Selectboard meeting; it could be planted this fall, since the work order has been approved. On Brainerd, Bozzuto said there is a

cottonwood that is vulnerable to wind damage and probably ought to be replaced. Piretti will take a look. At the McDonalds site, there is no sign that anything has been planted yet; Bozzuto will check with the developer who presented the plans to the committee.

V. Citizen speak time

None.

VI. General

A. The next meeting will be December 6, 2017, at 5:30; there will probably be no meeting in January.

The meeting adjourned without objection at 6:03 PM.