

Tree Committee

December 6, 2017, Mason Library

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

II. Minutes of the meeting of November 1 were approved, as corrected by the chair.

III. Old business

A. Tree City

We do not expect to hear about the response to the application for a while.

B. Tree planting budget

DPW says the draft budget provides for planting as well as maintenance. The planting part is small (\$5000), and Mike P notes that other projects with landscaping elements can lead to trees being planted. This is a step forward, because historically the whole budget has been described as tree maintenance. The town will need to pick up Main Street tree maintenance, now that the contractor's responsibility is over.

IV. New business

A. Arbor Day planning

Bozzuto reported that Hilda says she's all set, although the event is four months away.

B. Subcommittee for grants

Bozzuto proposes asking for support for an inventory of trees suffering from emerald ash borers, leading to treatment. She will check the DCR website, to see whether they might have money for this kind of thing. It would not need to be a large grant. Locations of particular concern are on Stockbridge Road; other places to inventory would be Gilmore Street and South Main Street. Beth agreed to help with grant writing.

C. Report on trees planted

Brodeur has nothing to report yet. Bozzuto suggested we might do a library display of photos and/or maps of the plantings that this committee has done. Brodeur wondered whether signs could be applied to the Main Street trees to identify their species.

D. New planting

Piretti said he had recently planted a red maple on Everett and another on Prospect. He also got a request to remove a Norway maple on Taconic, and the owner planted three new trees, perhaps motivated by the bylaw encouraging replacements. This makes a total of five new trees planted in the last few months.

V. Citizen speak time

None.

VI. General

A. The next meeting will be February 7, 2018, at 5:30.

The meeting adjourned without objection at 6:00 PM.