

Tree Committee Minutes
March 30, 2023, 5:30 p.m. South Hadley Public Library

In Attendance: Chris Thompson (Chair), Dennis Swarhout, Ted Boulais, Mike Lamontagne,
Jim Canning, Genevieve Van de Merghel.

Also present: Rebekah Cornell, Linda Young, Marion Canning, Ben Ayres.

Arboretum Care: Chris has been tagging trees in the arboretum. Rebekah will help replace a couple trees that haven't survived. A tulip sapling ended up with mulch up against the trunk and suffered mice damage over the winter. Dennis suggests that going forward we visit the arboretum in the fall to check the trees and get them in good shape to survive the winter.

Arbor Day (Friday, April 28, 2023) Preparations. Jim and Bobbie put together this year's invitations and Jim sent them out to his list. He received some very nice responses, including an enthusiastic message from school superintendent Mark McLaughlin.

In anticipation of Arbor Day, we will have a cleanup day April 14th from 2:00-4:00. Rain date April 15th from 10:00-12:00.

Vacant Tree Warden Position. Linda and Mike attended a selectboard meeting to raise concerns over the vacant tree warden position. Mike produced a binder of educational materials on the topic entitled "The Importance and Need for a Tree Warden," which the town administrator and selectboard members had not seen though a copy had been left with the town clerk. Chris will scan and create a digital version which will be easier to disseminate.

Tree Inventory. Rebekah is applying for a grant to help fund a city-wide tree inventory. There may be a line item in the budget to support this project as well.

Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC) member Ben Ayres provided Jim with MPIC Chair Judy Dobosh's email to send her an invitation to Arbor Day. Ben asked if we had any concerns for him to take back to the MPIC, but none were voiced.

Future Meetings TBD. We will hopefully meet once before Arbor Day to finalize plans.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30.