

Tree Committee  
Minutes  
April 26, 2022  
South Hadley Senior Center

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

Also present: Linda Young.

Minutes for previous meeting unanimously approved.

**Tree Observations/Hazards:**

Pole 27 Park Street has a leaning, dead tree, Mike has observed. It's safe right now but could decay into the street.

**Arbor Day:**

Town Administrator Lisa Wong did RSVP she will be attending. Discussion on whether she or Chair of the Select Board, Jeff Cyr, could read the Tree City Proclamation.

A list of town officials who will also be in attendance was distributed: David Gallagher, MESMS Principal; Bruce Hastings, MESPS VP; Maria Drobiak 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher; Dr. Mark McGlaughlin, Assistant Superintendent, SH Public Schools; Lisa Wong, Town Administrator; Anne Capra, Director of Planning and Conservation; Ted Boulais, Tree Committee Chair; Jeff Cyr, Select Board; Andy Rogers, Recreation Director; Andrew Miles Select Board

Chris and Linda have bagged all the tulip trees in preparation for giving them out to event attendees. Linda has banner, table, hand sanitizer. Dan Pease will bring amp/microphone for students. Bobbie's husband Robert will take pictures at the beginning of the event.

Mike has put green tags on some of the trees at the Arboretum. Dennis is trying to sort out what trees were planted for whom over the years. Linda suggests searching through past meeting minutes. Lilacs were for Bill Bachus. River birch for Lynn Pickle, Dennis thinks. For Ted Belsky (2014) it was a Stewartia. Three chestnuts planted together weren't for anybody, Linda says. They may have been mowed over, but Mike says he saw one that may be producing.

**Spring Tree Planting:**

Ted and Linda have been talking to tree wardens, who, as DPW workers, seem stretched pretty thin. Currently, Tree Wardens do not have a working computer and cannot receive requests for trees or tree service via email. Residents can only phone in now. Wardens have a couple thousand dollars for tree planting. They can order trees and handle DigSafe. Tree Committee would plant them.

Wardens are seeking locations for planting. Possible location: Canal park Overlook has a dead rhododendron (needs removal). Maybe a small flowering tree or a shrub.

Possible location: Replace dead trees in Arboretum.

Discussion of means to generate revenue to plant more trees, such as a "donate a tree in memory of someone" project or creating a special fund residents could donate into. The logistics of maintaining

and accessing such a fund might be prohibitive.

Jim shares when homeowners remove trees, Conservation Committee requires they buy replacement trees and put them in themselves, approved by Anne Capra. There are dimension requirements. Conservation Committee likely has different policies to handle private property and wetlands than would apply towards removal/replacement of town-owned trees on town property.

**Champion Tree Search:**

Champion Tree search for the state is ongoing. Mike as found a black birch that could be a prospect. And a wild American Holly.

**Tree Protection During Construction:**

Near the Senior Center many street trees are currently wrapped with boards to protect the bark from getting damaged. These don't help with damaging roots which is possibly the greater danger during construction projects. Some cities require you to tunnel under the roots based on bylaws for protection during construction. Discussion of whether South Hadley has any ordinances that require tree root protection during construction.

**To Discuss Next Meeting:**

Master Plan Action Items document received from Michelle Wolfe of the Master Plan Implementation Committee at March meeting.

**Future Meetings TBD.**

Meeting adjourned.