

5/17/2017  
MEETING MINUTES  
7:30pm Village Hall

Present: Tony Bardes (TB), Charles Day (CD), Gordon Robertson (GR), Jennifer Zwarich (JZ).  
Absent: Kory Riesterer (KR)

Summary:

TAB convened  
Approval of April meeting minutes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Miscellaneous Updates
2. Evaluation of Tree Cutting Application. Sarah DeFranco, 230 Main St, to remove 46 yew trees on village property adjacent to the parcel.
  - a. JZ went over protocol and distributed copies of Evaluation Criteria for Tree Cutting Applications to audience and applicant. Order of proceeding: a. Hear applicant's summary of proposal, b. Preliminary questions from Board members, c. Public Comment on Application, d. Board applies evaluation criteria and votes on recommendation.
  - a. Sarah DeFranco and Dave Reeves of 230 Main Street, presented a proposal to remove 46 yew trees on village property and replace with a number of small flowering trees.
  - b. GR pointed out that TAB's priorities are elsewhere and that finances restrict our activities. Other board members agreed that removal of existing trees that aren't in decline or dangerous should not be undertaken lightly and should be avoided when at all possible. Trees are public property and contribute many positive things to our community. However it was noted that the existing row of yews were likely planted as a hedge originally and as they have grown they have been inexpertly pruned by deer etc so they are not ideal specimens. JZ explained that even before considering the proposal to remove, Ms. DeFranco's replacement proposal was not in line with village tree management protocol and that if the yews were absent then larger shade trees would be indicated at that site, given that there is sufficient rooting space and no overhead cables and that few such sites exist within the village. JZ also questioned the reasons for removal, wondering if these reasons impinged on the public interest in keeping the trees. Aesthetics and access for the deliveries to front door seemed to be the main ones stated on the application by the applicant. The proposers indicated that they were amenable to TAB's suggestion of larger shade trees.
  - c. Public comment: Letters from Mona Smith and Kory Riesterer were read, both cautious about the need to remove the yews and suggesting that removal of the

trees would only be a net benefit to the village if they were replaced with suitable shade trees of equal or greater value to the community. Tania, a resident of 1 Maple Terrace was happy that replacement trees were part of the proposal but was concerned with the lack of screening on the site during interim growing period. Perhaps the board could consider some understory trees? Heidi and Matt Stephens of 3 Maple Terrace expressed sadness that the yews might go (enjoyed seeing them decorated with snow in winter) but also appreciated that replacement trees could be beneficial if properly selected. Perhaps the board would consider American holly? Kathleen Foley, 2 Locust Ridge expressed sadness regarding the loss of the black walnut at the same site and pointed out the traffic noise problem, suggesting that the existing yews provide some privacy and noise suppression. Would the board consider selectively keeping some of the yews? (CD answered: Probably not – because of proximity they likely share root system and removal of some is likely to cause further injury to any that might remain.) Public comment was closed.

- d. Board went through each item of evaluation criteria. GR felt strongly that since the line of yews extends beyond the property frontage of 230 Main, the entire row should be considered for removal. JZ noted that the existing proposal didn't indicate this and proposed that the board should evaluate the existing proposal and weigh in on the concept of removal and replacement as proposed but could require more detailed study or other options before making a recommendation to the Village Board of Trustees for final approval. The TAB evaluation was done as per protocol and a conditional vote was taken with the caveat that the TAB would need to prepare a new Planting Plan and that the applicant would need to agree to the TAB replacement terms and fully covering costs before the application can be recommended to the VBOT. The TAB members voted 4-0 in favor of the concept of removal and replacement under the conditions stated. It was agreed that additional discussion would occur in workshop format at the next meeting.

Meeting closed.