

Tree Committee

January 6, 2016, Mason Library

I. Jess Wikle called the meeting to order at 5:19 PM. Present were members Beth Moser, Lisa Bozzuto, Michael Wise and Hilda Banks Shapiro. Also present: Ed Abrahams, Craig Okerstrom-Lang.

II. Minutes of the meeting of December 2, 2015 were approved without objection.

III. Old business

A. Bylaw amendment:

Wikle will submit the draft as approved by the Committee in December to the Selectboard.

B. Tree City paperwork

Wikle reported that his is underway.

C. 79 Bridge St. trees

Craig Okerstrom-Lang presented the current plans. Changes in the current plan respond to Committee comments. Along Bridge Street, native species will be used. The shad has to be removed, but a large one (22 feet) will replace it. Two existing trees along the rear will be transplanted. Larger trees are being specified; this should work, because they will be planted well away from the road and sidewalk, so adequate preparation will be possible. Bozzuto noted that this Committee is not a decision-maker, though it could make recommendations to the Conservation Commission.

IV. New business

A. Oak St. Project

Okerstrom-Lang described the current situation around the corner of Oak and Taconic, where several large trees have recently been removed (two of them by the town, in front of Pat Ryan's house; DPW will grind the stumps). He asked whether there is any way to start to recover this area. Bozzuto suggested making planting here an Arbor Day project. Piretti noted that the budget is tight and typically dedicated to emergency and safety situations.

B. Arbor Day planning

Shapiro proposed working with the Waldorf School for art contributions. Tree projects could include planting for the DCF grant, replacing the cemetery tree. Moser will write a press release. She recalled that at the last meeting, Sharon Gregory suggested asking a local poet, Geoff Young, to contribute something; Shapiro will follow up with him.

C. Tree Committee website

Wikle said she had met with Karen Smith and cleared out the website. Ed Abrahams took a group picture for the website.

V. Citizen speak time

There were no citizens to speak.

VI. General

A. The next meeting will be February 3, 2016.

The meeting adjourned without objection at 5:44 PM.

