

Tree Committee

May 1, 2013, Mason Library

I. Chair Dennis Gibbons called the meeting to order at 5:15. pm. Present were members Dennis Gibbons, Beth Moser, Lisa Bozzuto, Michael Wise, Jess Wikle, Maria Ahlin, and tree warden Michael Piretti. Absent: Judith Dillon, Hilda Shapiro, Steve Adams, Susan Sheridan, Laurie Epstein.

II. Draft minutes from the meeting of April 3, 2012 were approved without objection.

III. Old business

A. Tree inventory

Gibbons reported on meeting with Molly Freilitzer, to start the inventory with the maple out front of the library. The iTree program is now set up, and the inventory can now be added to it. We will share it with the state agency. We can arrange for a demonstration at another meeting. Piretti inquired about how the information is displayed and retrieved. Gibbons explained that the data is retrieved by logging into the iTree database. Piretti and Moser suggested posting the relevant code on a plaque or label near or on significant trees, so the public could access it too. Tracking health and maintenance needs are particularly important for the tree warden, to help set priorities. Identifying which trees are town responsibility is complicated, since the setbacks vary in different neighborhoods; a careful inventory-survey will need to take this into account.

B. Arbor Day projects, proclamation and followup

Hilda Shapiro sent a report, through Bozzuto and Moser, about the media coverage of the senior center event at the Stockbridge Road sycamore. The Tree City banner was up on Town Hall on Arbor Day, and the reporters were alerted. At the official announcement event in Brookline in June, the town will get a package of signs and other materials. Moser reported that the Record will do a round-up article about the various Arbor Day events in the region. We will need to renew the Tree City paperwork by the end of the year. Moser inquired about how this affects eligibility for grants. Bozzuto observed that we could identify project and grant needs while developing the inventory. Piretti reported that the arboretum project at the school has been approved, for the back of the high school; that might be a tie-in for a grant.

Gibbons reported that he and Adams planted a yellowwood (from Tom Whelan, with a price tag of \$750) and an oak (from Adams) in Tracy Park. Shapiro will be asked to send a thank you note to Whalen. Haupt pruned the crab apples in front of St. James and Parrish Park. (The town has a proliferation of small parks, to which neighbors become attached.) Some recently planted trees were identified as in need of replacement (red oaks at Park Street and on North Plain and a white oak) and others as in need of care; Piretti said Sokul will be in touch with the contractor.

IV. New business

A. Olga May Milligan has resigned from the committee for health reasons. The town manager will be alerted about the vacancy.

B. The next meeting will be July 10, 2013.

V. The chair adjourned the meeting without objection at 6:05.

