

Tree Committee

August 2, 2017, Mason Library

Lisa Bozzuto
9/12/17

I. Lisa Bozzuto called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM. Present were members Michael Wise, Nan Wile, Michael Piretti. Hilda Banks Shapiro, Beth Moser and J. B. Brodeur, Absent: Chris Wilshire. Also attending Barry Porter.

II. Minutes of the meeting of June 7, 2017 were approved, without objection.

III. Old business

A. Inventory update

Molly from DCR is coming here at 10:00 AM August 30. Chris Wiltshire will accompany a walk down South Main Street. Piretti will be able to identify the town trees.

B. Knotweed complaint

The issue discussed at the June meeting, about Japanese knotweed in the Christian Hill Road area, is on the agenda of the Conservation Commission. The plant spreads via moving.

C. Committee chair

Moser agreed to be co-chair of the committee.

IV. New business

A. McDonalds tree planting

Barry Porter, consultant for McDonalds, presented the plans for the remodeled building. The building will have a new elevation, doors and signs, and interior will be completely redone, with kiosk ordering. Same footprint, same parking, same drive-through, but some handicapped access improvements. The sycamore is on the right of way and will not be touched. The Selectboard asked the applicant to come to the Tree Committee, concerning the Planning Board's request to include some tree plantings. Some ideas are another sycamore, at two inch caliper, or a red oak or a maple. It should be far enough from the existing tree to grow and not interfere with the sycamore. Permission would be needed from the state to put it on the right of way. Bozzuto suggested two small ornamentals instead. Piretti pointed out that the big state tree has been tended by volunteers, and proposes that McDonalds take over responsibility for the tree, in lieu of plantings. This year the tree had a fungal infestation that delayed its leaf emergence; the state refused to help out. Porter will check with McDonalds about whether the owner-operator could take on this responsibility, but their preference is to plant some ornamentals. Bozzuto called attention to the town's list of recommended, native ornamentals for planting, and emphasized that the developer has to commit to watering and maintaining them for a season, so they can be established. There are some private trees on the property already, and those will stay. Porter will send Piretti a list of the proposed ornamentals and will work with him about location and coordinating construction.

B. FY2019 budget

Bozzuto has drafted a request for a line item for tree planting. Moser pointed out that the request should be for an addition to the current budget for maintenance. A request for \$15,000 could cover planting 15-20 trees. Piretti warned that Main Street maintenance might be underfunded. Two were recently replaced by the contractor, but the perennial plantings have been neglected. Brodeur pointed out that some of the perennial plantings are incoherent.

C. Dennis Gibbons pruning

Gibbons has asked for permission to prune the trees he planted on Stockbridge Road last year for the DCR grant. The Committee agreed.

V. Citizen speak time

None.

VI. General

A. The next meeting will be September 6, 2017, at 5:30.

The meeting adjourned without objection at 6:06 PM.