

TOWN OF LYME
Emergency
Select Board Meeting
January 12th, 2015
Town Office Conference Room
Approved: January 15th, 2015

The following were present for part or all of the meeting: Charles J. Smith (Chair), Susan J. MacKenzie (member), and Patricia G. Jenks (member) Dina Cutting (Administrative Assistant).
Community member: Ben Kilham, Adair Mulligan. Conservation Commission members: Lee Larson, Blake Allison & Mary Beth Keifer. School principal: Jeff Valance and Head of buildings & ground, Michael Beck. Valley News reporters: Rob Wolfe and James Paterson.

1. Chair Smith opened the at 2:00PM
2. Chair Smith opened the meeting with a statement and description of what took place over the last 2 weeks concerning the basswood tree on the little common/school parking lot.
3. The School had reported to the Select board and the safety committee that the top section of this tree was a safety hazard. The board had Henderson Tree Company come and evaluate this tree. The proposal came with 2 options: 1) trim the dead limbs on the top. 2) Concerns for safety were noted and Henderson's recommendation for the safest thing was to remove the tree.
4. Given the information the board had at that time they voted to have the tree removed.
5. Mr. Kilham and various others noted they felt the board acted responsibly, but felt there were other options and avenues not yet considered concerning this potential champion tree. It was brought to the board's attention that this tree could possibly be the 2nd largest basswood tree in the state of NH and the biggest in Grafton County. Mr. Kilham has made arrangements to have the UNH forest group to come and examine this tree, Dave Falconham and Mary Thebodo.
6. The members of the community were supportive of the board and knew they had acted with the best intentions and for the safest result.
7. Suggestions were made
 - to hold off on cutting this tree down
 - getting second opinion as to the condition of the tree
 - longevity left
 - trim the dead limbs and reassess
 - have Robert Thebodo look at the tree
8. After a lengthy discussion Smith moved to have the dead limbs at the top removed-hold off on anything else until more information is gathered on the condition of the tree. Seconded by Jenks and voted unanimously in favor.
9. The group went on to discuss the damage being done by the cars from school parking under and around the trees on this section of the little common. Mr. Valance reviewed the challenges in parking at the school. There just is not enough. He noted that Chief O'Keefe was to be gathering information from the State as to the options via route 10 parking for school.
10. Future information for parking options needs to be gathered and work on.
11. The board thanked all for coming to this meeting and invited them to come to more regular meetings and participate in discussions.
12. At 2:26PM Smith moved to adjourn. Seconded by Jenks. Motion voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dina Cutting