

Hartford Tree Board Meeting
January 19, 2020
5:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Mission: The Tree Board's mission is to plant and maintain public trees and advocate community tree stewardship.

Board Members present: Kathy Lamb, Chair, Clare Forseth, Jeff Arnold, Leif Smedman, Karen Watson

Also attending: Scott Hausler, Parks and Recreation Director

Meeting Called to Order at 5:08 p.m.

Review and approval of December 15, 2020 Minutes: Minutes were approved Unanimously.

Old Business

- Tree of the Month: We now have signs up at the Quechee Green highlighting the riparian buffer, pin oak on Bridge St White River Junction and the elm trees along Rt 5 in White River Junction. February Tree of the month will be the juniper at Maxfield Sports Complex. Kathy O'Kane of the Vermont Country Sampler got in touch with the board and will be writing an informative piece in the monthly paper about our tree of the month program.
- Shade Tree Preservation Plan: Jeff completed the application for collaboration and technical assistance to draft a municipal shade tree preservation plan for Vermont. He and Scott will work on the letter of support that will accompany the application - due February 3, 2021. This effort came out of the Tree Warden Statute revisions and a need to define "municipal shade tree". Dana Hazen is on board with this application.

- EAB plan progress: Brad Goedkoop identified 17 prominent town ash trees that would be worth saving from the Emerald Ash Borer. Eight at Veteran's Park, six at the high school, and three at Ratcliff Park. The three at Ratcliff Park are especially large and beautiful. Jeff researched each tree diameter and will email that information to Leif who will contact Chippers, Henderson's, Bartlett, and Timber Tenders to get estimates of the cost of treating these trees. The board is hoping to work with one of these companies who may donate some of the cost. The board will continue to monitor where the EAB is (presently in Croydon and Rutland) to determine when best to start a treatment program that may need to be repeated every 2 or 3 years.
- Possible location for trees to be planted in 2021: The board would like to work with the Park and Recreation department and research replacement trees/shrubs in the parking lots at the Maxfield Sports Complex.
- Tree Identification Walk March 2021 possibly at Fairview Terrace area in White River Junction. Some members will meet on Saturday, January 30th at 1 PM to scout out the area. We will meet at the St. Anthony's parking lot. The board questioned whether the pandemic will make a postponement of the March or April walk necessary. A decision will be made prior to advertising for the walk.
- Arbor Day Sale: May 1st is the first Saturday in May and most likely Arbor Day when we traditionally have our fundraising sale. Again, because of the pandemic, the board is discussing having the sale in the fall as we did in 2020.
- Preparation for bare root stock receiving in Spring '21: The 48 bare root trees will probably arrive the middle of April. The board will need to purchase 2 gallon or larger pots and soil to plant the trees. Park and Recreation crew will enlarge the nursery area to accommodate the new stock. Leif has small balsam fir trees on his property that he is willing to donate to the sale.
- Status of Tree Board opening, thank you to Tim Covell: John Sherman has submitted his application to the Tree Board and the selectboard will vote on his nomination at their next meeting. Jeff and

Clare will present Tim with his maple leaf trivet as a thank you from the board for his years of service on the board.

Other Business:

- Tree City USA: Scott and Dana are working on the application to designate Hartford a Tree City USA town. They submit work that the Tree Board, Park and Recreation, Cemetery, and Public Works do to maintain a healthy treescape in town.
- Tree Warden Budget: The town budget reflects \$5,000 in the Tree Warden's budget. Dana will talk with Brad Goedkoop to prioritize tree work needed to be done in town.

Meeting adjourned: 6:12 Next meeting February 16, 2021

Respectfully submitted,
Clare Forseth, secretary