

Tree Board Meeting
Town of Hartford Municipal Building
January 21, 2020
Room 312, 6:00 p.m.

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

Board Members present: Karen Watson, Kathy Lamb, Chair, Clare Forseth, Jeff Arnold, Tim Covell. Also attending: Scott Housler, Director of Parks and Recreation, Deborah Milne

Meeting Called to Order 6:10

Education: Current Trends & Practices: Deborah brought a tree root from her cellar. Questions followed such as how to identify trees by their roots, what tree was near her house. Article in VN about large elm (Herbie) that was cut down and only 1 elm clipping survived. They have now "cloned" the tree and selling the off-shoots. Karen suggests we buy some Herbie saplings from Research Institute of Keene to sell or plant and would like the tree warden's input.

Approval of November 19, 2019 (December meeting was cancelled due to weather). The November 19, 2019 minutes passed unanimously.

Old Business:

*Tree Warden Report dated 11/21/19 and 11/25/19: Brad could not make the meeting, but emailed his report: 1) I've flagged 30 trees for the winter pruning cycle, Hartford Village, Quechee and Maxfield Complex. Notice has gone out via Requisitions for Proposals from the Town of Hartford. The pruning is scheduled for late Feb. I can send details if anyone wants to see the paperwork.

2) Also, I was contacted by the State Dept of P&R, forestry division to testify in Montpelier on proposed changes to the Tree Warden statutes. It's gone this far because of interest by speaker of the house, Mitzi Johnson!!! I'm very excited about this. With a couple of other tree wardens, I'll be interviewed by a special committee. If it passes committee, it will go to the house and then the senate for ratification. I'll tell you how that goes!

The Board expressed interest in keeping informed about the pruning and the interview process.

- Tree of the Month Update: Clare showed one of five signs for the Tree of the Month that was printed. January's sign is already posted at blue spruce across from Senior Center. February sign will go up at limber pine at Datamann. We will keep Jan, Feb and March

signs up until we can get the poles out of the ground hopefully by the end of March. Clare also showed a small booklet that could be handed out to some school grades for the kids to track the tree of the month. More discussion is needed to see if this is a practical idea.

- Canopy Grant Discussion: The board applied for a grant from Urban Forestry group to plant the median at Datamann. The committee met with the director of Public Works, Town Manager, Bill Mann of Datamann, director of V-trans, and a landscaper at Garden Supply about the project. We should hear in a few weeks if our request was granted. When we hear we have the planting grant, Clare will talk again to Chris Bump of Vtrans about a permit. Earlier, Karen filed for a grant from GMP for free trees, but the grant was given to Barry.

New Business

*1994 Hartford Ave (Datamann) additions to landscaping: no additional discussion.

*Honor retiring Board Members: We honored retiring member, Deborah Milne, with a gift from the tree board and thanked her for her time and energy to the Board. The Board also honored retiring member, Carole Haelnel, with a gift for her service.

*Canopy Grant Application: Discussion appears above.

*Treasurer Report: The board netted \$700 for May Day sale. \$40 a month for the data plan for the Tree Warden was noted. The board will talk to the Tree Warden about sharing the cost of the data. The board has \$1903 in the bank. Future costs: \$379 for each tree total of \$1137 - Black gum, Black walnut and tulip tree to honor retired town manager. Unknown bill for the printing of the Tree of the Month posters.

*Tree Board Member Search: Three people have expressed interest in the two openings on the Tree Board. Scott will send their info to board members.

The meeting was adjourned: 7:10

February agenda items: Tree ID Walk in Spring, Tree and Shrub sale in May, Tree Board table at Town Meeting, Feb 29th, Tree of the Month brochure, review applicants to openings on the Tree Board.

Signed By: _____ Date: _____