

Hartford Tree Board Meeting
April 20, 2021
Microsoft Teams Zoom Meeting
5 pm

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, John Sherman

Also attending: Scott Hausler, Parks and Recreation Director

Meeting called to order: 5:05 pm

Review and approval of March 16, 2021 minutes: minutes were approved unanimously.

Business:

- Tree of the Month, Clare: April tree of the month is the katsura tree at the Methodist Church on Gates Street in White River Junction. May Tree of the Month will be a box elder in Veteran's Park.
- Acceptance of Arbor Day Grant: The Arbor Day grant that the tree board partnered with Dothan Brook School was accepted by the Vermont Urban Community and Forestry Program. The grant will give \$1100 (\$100 more than asked for) toward planting 2 sugar maples (2.5 in caliper), and building a maple sugaring program on the Dothan Brook School property with the help from the Vocational High School. The Tree Board agreed to contribute (amount to be determined) to the grant if necessary. Scott will manage the administration of the

grant. Kathy will email Dana for advice on the maple trees and talk to Northern Nursery about the trees.

- Shade Tree Preservation Plan update/Jeff: Many discussions with Joanne Garton (Urban and Community Forestry), legal counsel for VLCT, Dan Fraser, and Elise Schadler (Vt Dept of Forest, Parks and Rec) gave the committee some paths to writing the plan. The new Tree Warden statues give the Tree Warden and the Selectboard the decision making power over the municipal trees. It may very well be necessary for the Board to revise its Comprehensive Tree Policy and/or the bylaws to comply with the new statues. The Board is interested in continuing to act in an advisory capacity in the process of assessing municipal trees.

It was proposed that a Covid Memorial Tree be planted in town and possibly in the new mini-park planned for White River Junction.

- EAB treatment update, Leif: The ash trees at Veteran's Park will be treated late May or early June when the leaves are out. The Board would like to plan a community awareness program about the Emerald Ash Borer and the devastation it will have for the ash trees in Hartford. It could be linked with the Park and Rec Golden Ticket Program. Karen W. will take a stab at coming up with some quiz/information about the insect. Bob Littletree may have information for the Board to use.
- Status of nursery space expansion, Scott: The nursery was doubled in size, however, the new area is very hard and will need to be worked up and mulched. Scott will look into amending the area. The seedlings were all potted on Saturday. The Board approved \$60 to buy 2 soaker hoses to help keep the trees watered. Each Board member will pick a month to check on the trees weekly and water them for an hour or so.
- Discuss the need for a Deputy Tree Warden: The Tree Warden Statutes allow for the Selectboard to appoint a deputy tree warden and the Tree Board may want to have one of its members be appointed.
- Lone Pine field trip, Clare: Jeff and Clare located the Lone Pine and discovered it was indeed dead. But Clare informed Pat Stark from the

Historical Society that it looked like it could remain standing for a good many years.

- Town development and construction projects, earlier access to advise on plantings: As far as we know, developers will approach the Town with an idea and Jo Ann Els will give them the Planning and Zoning rules and regulations. The developer then submits their “completed” plan to the Planning and Zoning Department. Jo Ann will allow a representative from Conservation, Energy and Tree Board to look over the plans and make recommendations. She relays those recommendations to the developer and the developer replies. The plan then goes before the Planning Commission in a public meeting. Changes can be required at this stage by the Commission. How to allow the Tree Board to have a better influence? Suggestions were: Revise the Tree Boards commercial planting plan. Meet with representatives from energy and conservation and come up with guidelines (advisory only) for the developers that can be given out with the Planning and Zoning regulations.

Education:

- Leif, Tree Warden School, and lifetime career of working in the pulp and paper industry in Scandinavia: Tabled to May meeting but will be put first on the May agenda.
- Scott will be sharing with the Selectboard the Arbor Day Proclamation that allows us to be a Tree City USA member.
- Leif will talk about the trees on the Quechee green by the bandstand in May.

Meeting adjourned: 6:23 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Clare Forseth, Secretary

Signed this 15th day of June, 2021.

Karen Watson