

Longmeadow Tree Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 6 p.m.
Longmeadow Fire Dept. Public Meeting Room

The Tree Committee meeting was opened at 6:08pm. The following members were present: Chair/Tree Warden David Marinelli, Patrick Carnahan, and Steve Steiner. Absent were Bari Jarvis, Mark Tolosky, and Wayne Ottani.

Public comments and discussion: None

Tree Warden Report:

Tree Warden has been busy planning 2019 plantings. Currently there are 70 trees being planned for planting with 50 trees already on order. The planned plantings would cover the backlog of previously requested trees.

Tree Warden has been working with Patrick Sisk, Grounds Manager of Longmeadow Country Club regarding upkeep and removal of damaged trees along Shaker Road.

Tree removal budget is nearly depleted. Supplemental funds are being requested.

Old Business:

2019 Arbor Day Planning-Tree Warden has been in touch with Center School Principal and likely 3 trees will be planted there in celebration of Arbor Day. Tree saplings will be provided to students during celebration. Arbor Day Foundation has contributed some swag for the ceremony.

2019 Long Meddowe Days Planning-Master Gardeners will be assisting. Trees and planting information will be provided free of charge to those requesting saplings. 4 varieties of trees were selected: white spruce, sugar maple, hophornbeam, and American persimmon.

2019 tree planting-Amherst Nursey has been contacted and might be able to provide both nursery stock and labor for spring tree planting. Tree Warden prefers smaller trees to maximize number of trees planted.

Tree Warden attended the MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Planning) meeting. This was a 2-day process which identified priorities for Longmeadow. Program was developed in response to concerns about climate change and how that will impact communities. One of the priorities identified for Longmeadow was hazardous trees. Tree Warden is assisting Chief Dearborn in writing a grant application to survey and then begin selectively removing hazardous trees. Current inventory survey suggests an eventual \$1.4 million removal expense for sliver maples alone.

Emerald Ash Borer contract has been sent out to bid with 3 acceptable bids received. The contract has been awarded, and work will begin on 40 identified Ash trees in May-June.

Hazard trees continue to be removed when identified.

The purpose of the Tree Committee is to promote a healthy and sustainable community forest by planting and maintaining quality trees and providing education and advocacy to the public on the benefits of trees.

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New Business:

Discussion regarding Tree Warden proposal on how to prioritize shade tree work in Longmeadow. This includes concerns with how to deal with sidewalk repair/replacement. Town Manager has requested input from Tree Committee. Discussion was broad and varied. Tree Warden will work on final draft.

Next meeting:

Next meeting is planned for April 25th 2019 in the Fire Station Meeting room.

The minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Patrick Carnahan, Recorder

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