

Longmeadow Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday January 9, 2019
Public Meeting Room, Longmeadow Fire Station.

The Tree Committee meeting was opened at 7:07pm. The following members were present: Chair/Tree Warden David Marinelli, Steve Steiner, Kathy Kucab, Mark Tolosky and Patrick Carnahan. Absent were Wayne Ottani and Bari Jarvis.

The 11/21/2019 meeting minutes were approved.

Public comments and discussion: None.

Tree warden Report: Damage to a public shade tree (Oak) on Laurel Street occurred during excavation for a water main break. The tree warden was notified after repairs were complete. He is working with the DPW to improve communication so that tree root injury can be minimized in the future. The tree roots will be excavated by an arborist with an air-spade, examined and trimmed if necessary. If the tree is felt to be unstable, it will be removed.

The tree warden is working on getting the town tree inventory (which is nearly complete) linked to the town website so that citizens can explore town street trees. This will open the possibility of crowd-sourcing corrections and updates.

Old Business: No word yet from DCR regarding our tree-planting grant application.

Community Preservation Act grant application for \$20,000.00 was retracted after we received guidance that treebelts are not considered open space for the purposes of the Community Preservation Act. The tree warden will write to our State Senator requesting that he consider sponsoring legislation to broaden the guidelines to include the planting of public shade trees on rights-of-way.

New Business: Review of draft annual report was discussed. Report will be updated and submitted by the tree warden prior to the February 10 deadline.

Discussion regarding Tree Committee involvement with the Longmeadow Open Space Working Group. The working group is updated Longmeadow's Open Space Plan and the Tree Committee is working with the group on the updated plan. The Committee is well represented by Pat Carnahan and Bari Jarvis.

Arbor Day (Friday, April 24th) was discussed. Plan is to have tree saplings distributed to fourth graders at all 6 elementary schools in town. Four Tree Committee members and the tree warden will work with the two town garden groups (Longmeadow Gardeners and Gardeners on the Green) on planning and execution. A tree planting will be conducted at Blueberry Hill School and Cub Scout Pack 94 will be asked to assist.

Minutes were read, corrected as needed and approved.

Set next meeting date: 02/13/2020 6:00pm Location TBA

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Patrick Carnahan, Recorder

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.