

Longmeadow Tree Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday May 28, 2021

Remote Meeting

The Tree Committee meeting was held remotely via Zoom. The meeting opened at 6:00 PM. The following members were present: Tree Warden Rick Mastroianni, Dave Marinelli, Steve Steiner, Kathy Kucab, and Patrick Carnahan. Also present was Longmeadow Resident Lou Kornet.

The meeting was opened by following the approved “script” for conducting remote meeting which included a review of Open Meeting Law.

Public comments-Lou Kornet attended and greatly enjoyed the Arbor Day celebration held at the Wolf Swamp school.

Approved April 22, 2021 meeting minutes: unanimous

Tree Warden Report and Old Business: No further updates regarding the Route 5 to Converse Street/sidewalk revision.

The Towns Deputy Tree Warden (Josh) is watering trees and responding to homeowner requests for tree gators.

Eversource requested permission to remove a 32” dbh declining American Beech at 110 Tecumseh Dr. threatening powerlines. Tree Warden and Committee Chair agree that removal is indicated.

Longmeadow did not get the \$10,000.00 DRC grant that the Town had applied for. This would have been the third year in a row for grant which would have been unusual. DCR encouraged Town to apply for grant next year. Tree Warden expressed an interest in applying for grant next year.

Annual windshield survey will resume when personnel available.

Spring planting - 62 public shade trees (including 3 Memorial Trees) were planted, many with help of volunteers which saved \$4,000 in labor costs. Some crabapples were stressed by transplanting after breaking dormancy. They are expected to survive if watered.

Tree hearings were held for 6 trees. One written objection to the removal of an Oak was made. The Tree Warden and Town Engineer will work together to save that tree.

Tree Warden advised that Annual Town Meeting approved \$80,000.00 in additional funding for tree removal/tree work this fiscal year.

Dave expressed concern that some trees remain in the Town tree inventory after actual physical removal. Tree Warden believes that trees are being removed from inventory when physically removed, however, many trees are still awaiting removal due to lack of funding and as such have not been removed from inventory.

Tree Warden advised that 25-30 trees at Longmeadow High School will be removed due to poor health. These trees were not properly planted when the high school was rebuilt and as a result are dying. Dave advised that the trees at the Adult Center were planted without exposing the root flair by removing rootball burlap and basal ropes, which is not considered a best practice. The ropes have now been cut.

New Business: Possible hazard tree reported at 42 Summit Avenue. Tree Warden was notified of tree.

Minutes of this meeting (taken by Pat Carnahan) were read, corrected as needed and unanimously approved.

Next meeting date – The next meeting of the Tree Committee will on June 24 at 6:00 pm.

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.