

Longmeadow Tree Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday June 23, 2022

Remote Meeting

The Tree Committee meeting was held remotely via Zoom. The meeting opened at 6:08 PM. The following members were present: Chair Dave Marinelli, Mark Tolosky, Patrick Carnahan, Kathy Kucab, Steve Steiner and Tree Warden Sean Van Deusen. Bari Jarvis was absent.

Public Comments: None

May minutes: Minutes unanimously approved.

Introduction and welcome Tree Warden Sean Van Deusen: Sean was warmly welcomed by the committee. He is the new DPW Director and also serves as the Town Tree Warden. He comes from Great Barrington, MA. Sean has a background in tree work prior to working in Lenox and Great Barrington's DPWs. Sean advised that while he is not an arborist he believes in the value of a certified arborists and plans on utilizing the services of certified arborists while working on DPW projects that could affect/impact street trees.

Tree Warden Report: Sean reported that the hazardous tree mitigation project would include some park trees as well as street trees. Dave expressed concern that changing the scope of the project could delay implementation, that the boundaries of the expansion would need to be carefully defined, and that park tree hazard mitigation may be eligible for CPA funds, whereas public shade trees are not.

Old Business:

Ash tree treatment in 2022 – Some or all of the Ash tree treatment has been completed. Dave is planning to update the inventory once Northern submits their report.

Update on Hazard Tree Assessment – See above, the hazardous mitigation project would include some park trees as well as street trees.

Fall tree planting – Planned for the fall. Numerous residents have requested the planting of trees in tree belt along their property line. Residents have agreed to watering trees for two years. Sean is exploring the option of including post planting care in the contract for trees that do not have citizen sponsors.

New Business:

Tree water volunteers – Bari will discuss at next Tree Committee meeting.

DPW/Tree Committee booth for Fall Festival – There is a Fall Festival being planned and Tree Committee would like to have a booth at festival. Sean thought this a good idea and supported idea. The Recycling Commission will share the booth.

Any other new business – Stump grinding questions have been presented to Dave who deferred to Sean. Sean advised that there are currently about 80 stumps to be ground. About 30 should be DigSafed and ground in the next few weeks. Sean is committed to removing the stumps and will seek further funding. Northern Tree Service has the contract for grinding.

Discussion ensued regarding tree company and power company work and damage to street trees. Sean advised that there have been a couple of recent instances where a tree service company removed a public shade tree and a power company damaged some town trees. Sean has spoken to entities and is making it clear that continued work in Longmeadow must be done under Massachusetts law with respect/care for the street trees.

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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Set Next Meeting Date/Time: Next meeting 7/26/2022

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm