The Tree Committee meeting was held remotely via Zoom. The meeting opened at 7:09 PM. The following members were present: Chair/Tree Warden David Marinelli, Steve Steiner, Kathy Kucab, Mark Tolosky and Patrick Carnahan. Absent were Bari Jarvis and Wayne Ottani.

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

**Public Comments** - None

**Tree Warden Report and Old Business:** Tree Warden reported that it was a tough spring for Maple Trees. On top of the salt applied to streets in the winter (which is damaging to Maple roots) the spring has been unusually dry. Maples in town are stressed and a number are showing significant die-off.

Tree Warden advised that the Town Tree Inventory has been essentially completed.

Tree Warden advised that Ash trees were treated for EAB, Elms will be treated for Dutch Elm Disease and that the funds have been appropriated for that to happen.

Tree Warden announced that the Tree Warden position has been posted. Dave is not seeking another term as Tree Warden and as such the position needs to be filled. There is no date as to when the position will be filled. Dave has applied for a seat on the Tree Committee and the application is with the Select Board for review.

Tree Committee Chair advised that current Tree Committee member Wayne Ottani would not be seeking another term because of work commitments. Wayne is a certified Arborist and his experience and expertise will be greatly missed. The Committee thanks Wayne for his service and wishes him well.

The Tree Warden Duties sheet which outlined the full duties currently being carried out by the Tree Warden. Under his stewardship, Longmeadow's street tree program made significant advancements including the completion of the Town Tree Inventory, increased street tree replanting, increased citizen participation and outreach to schools through Arbor Day tree planting and educational outreach. Dave's service is being recognized. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:** Due to the hot and sunny weather the newly planted street trees are in dire need of watering. Until recently, watering this year was performed by either the Tree Warden or tree intern. The tree intern’s position has expired and with Dave’s term expiring on July 1st, there is a need to have someone take over the duties. DPW has been asked to fill the watering duties but Tree Warden was advised that DPW is understaffed and cannot fulfill the tree watering duties.

Mention was made of several newly planted street trees having been vandalized. The trees were planted along Laurel Street by Laurel Park. Tree Warden advised that the trees were replanted (the trees had been knocked over or pulled out of the ground) and that the ultimate fate of the trees is uncertain. The Tree Committee expressed sorrow over this incident as the tree replanting program has received nearly universal praise by the citizens of Longmeadow.

The Tree Warden provided a Tree Warden Duties sheet which outlined the full duties currently being carried out by the Tree Warden. A discussion was held regarding the fact that the town is required to appoint a qualified Tree Warden under MGL Part 1, Title 7, Chapter 41, Section 106. The current position is paid for 10 hours/week which is far short of the time being put into the position by the current Tree Warden. Tree Warden advised that the town is currently not supportive of hiring a full-time Tree warden and the position has been funded and posted for 10 hours/week.

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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Discussion was held regarding the Benchmarking Survey being undertaken by Tree Committee member Mark Tolosky. The survey is awaiting approval by the Town Manager before it can be sent out.

Next meeting date: August 20, 2020
The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.
Respectfully submitted: Patrick Carnahan, Recorder