Longmeadow Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 20, 2020
Zoom meeting held in accordance with Governor Baker’s emergency order temporarily modifying the state’s open meeting law due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The following members participated: Chair David Marinelli, Tree Warden Rick Mastroianni, Steve Steiner, Bari Jarvis, Kathy Kucab, and Mark Tolosky. Committee Chair David Marinelli confirmed that all participants could hear. The Tree Committee meeting was opened at 6:10 PM on a unanimous roll call vote.

Public comments and discussion: None.

Dave and the Committee welcomed Rick to his position as Tree Warden, and as a member of the Tree Committee. All offered their support and look forward to working with Rick for the benefit of the town.

In response to a question, Dave noted that the Tree Warden position remains funded for 10 hours per week, and a deputy Tree Warden position has been advertised and funded for about 6 hours per week.

Minutes from the 5/28 and 6/25 Tree Committee Meetings were unanimously approved.

FY 2021 Elections:
Chair: Dave Marinelli, Vice Chair Kathy Kucab, Secretary Patrick Carnahan were elected unanimously.

Tree Warden Report and Old Business:
Between October 2018 and July 2020, 484 public shade trees were removed or failed in a storm. 491 public shade trees were planted during the same time. With a great deal of effort, we are just managing to keep pace with removals, and have not been able to replace any of the estimated 6000 public shade trees lost over the last two decades.

DCR Grant update: We have a matching tree planting grant for $10,000 from the Commonwealth. Dave and Rick will confer on planting this fall.

Annual windshield survey was 20% complete when stalled by COVID19; Rick will work with our consulting arborist to complete it when possible.

Route 5/Converse Street revision plan at the 25% stage. Plans include widening Longmeadow Street, repositioning sidewalks and crosswalks and modernizing the light. Some trees will be impacted. Public hearing is pending.

Mark reports that the survey he sent to other towns regarding their Tree Warden/Forestry effort has resulted in 2 responses. Ten are pending. He will follow through after a reasonable interval.

New Business:
Dave asked if there was consensus supporting the goal of routinely planting one public shade tree for every tree lost, and if so, how we can translate our recommendation into action for the Town. On motion made and seconded, after discussion, the Committee unanimously recommended to the Town that each year public shade trees be planted at the same rate that they are lost. Bari will incorporate this as a goal in the Open Space Plan currently being revised.

The minutes were read, revised as needed and unanimously approved.

Set next meeting date: 09/17/2020 6:00 pm by Zoom
The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.
Respectfully submitted: Steven Steiner, acting secretary

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.