

Town of Maynard
MAYNARD TREE COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, February 10, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Justin DeMarco at 5pm via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Leslie Bryant, Lee Caras, Orian Greene, Neil Pederson, and Steve Smith. Justin Demarco and Kaitlin Young (liaison non-voting members).

GUEST: Kate Wheeler

There were no minutes to approve this being the first meeting of the Tree Committee.

INTRODUCTION

Justin told the Committee that it is an advisory committee and that its decisions can only be recommendations to other Town bodies for action. It is a Committee under Town Administration, not under the Select Board (no annual report is required). Any information or request that needs Select Board approval must go first to Justin.

NEW ITEMS

Appointments to Board Positions:

Motion: to elect Lee Caras as Chairperson, by Leslie. Seconded by Orian and approved.

Motion: to elect Steve Smith as Vice Chairperson, by Leslie. Seconded by Orian and approved.

Motion to elect Neil Pederson as Secretary, by Leslie. Seconded by Steve and approved.

Downtown Tree Planting Plan:

Justin discussed the MAPC grant application that he, Katie Young and Wayne Amico have developed for a rain garden that would overlay three tree wells that had been part of the planting plan on lower Nason Street. An endorsement letter from the Tree Committee will be requested to accompany the application. Awards will be announced in April. Tree-planting will likely occur late spring or early summer regardless of whether a grant is given to the Town or not. Details for watering the new trees will need to be worked out.

Arbor Day (officially April 30):

Following discussion with Katie about the many benefits of holding an Arbor Day event (public celebration of our local trees, community education, a qualifying activity for Tree City USA grant applications), the Committee voted unanimously to approach the Maynard Tree Corps, a club, to serve as volunteers in planning, co-ordinating and publicizing a Maynard Arbor Day event on May 1st under the auspices of the Tree Committee.

Funding, Gifts and Grants for Tree Committee Plantings:

Justin informed the Committee of the following:

-Government entities cannot solicit funds, but the Select Board can accept gifts of trees.

-The Tree Committee can recommend initiatives (e.g., request a budget for planting) to Justin, which would then go to the Select Board.

-DCR offers urban forestry grants each November. ISA (International Society of Arboriculture), that Justin belongs to, also has a grant program. Steve suggested that the Committee develop a grants calendar.

Goals of the Tree Committee:

Discussion was tabled until the next meeting. Members will review the Committee Mission Statement and plan to discuss members' individual goals and interests for the coming year.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Leslie, seconded by Orian and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

UPCOMING MEETING: February 24, 2021.