

Town of Maynard
MAYNARD TREE COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, February 24, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Lee, Chairperson, at 5:01pm via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Leslie Bryant, Lee Caras, Orian Greene, Neil Pederson, and Steve Smith.
Justin Demarco, liaison non-voting member. ABSENT: Kaitlin Young, liaison non-voting member.
GUEST: Kate Wheeler

MOTION to approve the minutes of the February 10th meeting was made by Leslie. It was seconded by Neil and approved.

CURRENT ITEMS:

Downtown Tree Planting Plan:

- Justin said that the MAPC grant application deadline for a Nason Street bioswale (rain garden) was this coming Friday (2/26), and that he would be requesting an endorsement letter from the Tree Committee as a supporting partner in the filing.
- The process of purchasing the trees for Nason & Main was discussed (when Cavicchio Greenhouses, Inc., Maynard's procurement contract partner, would have stock, when trees could be tagged for purchase, etc.). Possible sourcing from Millican Nurseries, LLC, if desired trees not available elsewhere was also considered, as was delaying purchases if desirable trees were not available this spring season.
- MOTION: by Leslie that Steve be the Committee's liaison in choosing and tagging trees with Justin. It was seconded by Lee and approved.

Review of the Tree Committee Mission Statement:

Group discussion resulted in making the following revisions:

- To #2. "Promote protection and planting of trees throughout the Town".
- To #5. "Educate the community about the value of trees and about tree resources available to them. Inform the public about local tree initiatives."
- To #6. "Seek grants and other assistance for planting, maintenance, preservation, and education about trees in Town."
- To the statement following #6. "The Tree Committee is an ad hoc, Town Administrator appointed committee. It is an advisory group."
- #4 was not revised, but the Committee was uncertain how it might assist the Tree Warden in this mission statement item. Perhaps work with iTree and the Davey Survey and requesting information when private trees are planted. There is tracking of trees by DPW via an Excel spreadsheet.

Justin was asked how the Tree Committee might get involved in tree planting guidelines around new development, etc. He said it was important to liaison with the Planning Board, Bylaw Committee, Conservation Commission and Select Board to understand and, in time, to strengthen standards for tree planting, preservation and care. A new guideline for planting at a new building site might be, e.g., setting a minimum amount of tree canopy required. Justin cautioned that the initial formulation of a tree bylaw for the

Town must be a fairly simple one. Over time regulations could be added for greater effectiveness.

Arbor Day Planning: Grant Possibilities and Potential Events (April 30 is the official date)

Various grants were discussed, including the Bank of America/Arbor Day program (we don't qualify), Mass Cultural Council Festival Grant (we can't manage such a large event yet), and the Mass Tree Wardens Arbor Day program for the bulk purchase of trees to give away. Everyone felt that the Committee, which started up earlier this month, was not prepared to undertake a large project this year.

Ideas for a tree walk and/or tree planting were discussed. Historic Glenwood Cemetery was considered, especially since trees could be planted there now, possibly purchased through the Perpetual Care Fund. There is historical data and photographs available for this National Register property, and the cemetery was included in the 2020 Davey Tree Survey. Next fall or spring there could be funding as well through the CPC.

NEW BUSINESS:

Immediate goals and members' interests: Lee asked members to bring their ideas and preferences about Committee work to the next meeting.

The Committee now has an official email address: treecommittee@townofmaynard.net. Emails to this address are automatically routed to the Chairperson's personal email.

MEMBER COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

Tree pits on Nason & Main- can they be expanded? Justin said this was planned, but might happen after trees were planted if end of winter season work for the DPW was still being done.

Details of bioswale (rain garden) project? Will be sited on lower Nason Street, connecting three tree pits. There would be three trees and under-plantings to collect runoff and organic matter, and to create an inviting green streetscape for walkers and shoppers.

How can the Committee be informed about the removal of public shade trees (trees in the public right-of way (ROW))? Justin said that a tree hearing is required when a healthy tree or a tree with a suspected hazard is in the ROW. A tree that is truly hazardous may be removed without a hearing. He said the Committee could have access to the DPW's revolving list of hazardous trees scheduled for removal. Tree removal can be a contentious public issue.

MOTION to adjourn was made by Steve. It was seconded by Orian and approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm.

UPCOMING MEETING: March 10, 2021.