

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

The meeting was called to order by Lee at 5:06pm via Zoom.

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

MOTION to approve the minutes of the February 24th meeting was made by Orian. It was seconded by Steve and approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Downtown Tree Planting Plan Considerations:

Neil opened a discussion about sticking to the choices of trees that had been made after an in-depth study of various species' abilities to survive urban tree-well planting and their functionality in that kind of environment (shade, CO2 management, beauty, low maintenance, etc.). We will confer with Justin about timing and cost issues if desired tree stock is unavailable. Steve volunteered to investigate stock at Cavicchio Greenhouses, Inc., and at other nurseries for specimens measuring at 2.5-3.5 caliper.

Tree Committee Mission Statement:

Revisions made at the February 24th meeting were discussed.

MOTION to adopt the Mission Statement as revised 2/24 was made by Leslie. Steve seconded it and it was approved.

Arbor Day Event Planning:

A site visit was made along the Rail Trail (on Railroad Street and the area behind CVS) by Neil, Lee and Kate (representing the Maynard Tree Corps) to scout potential locations for an Arbor Day tree planting, contingent on acceptance of a gift tree from the Tree Corps by the Select Board. Three locations, near spots where trees had died or had suffered substantial damage, were staked.

Endorsement Letter for MAPC Accelerating Resiliency Grant Application:

Lee reported that she had submitted a letter as requested under the tight deadline. Leslie suggested that the letter's format could serve as a precedent for future endorsements. It was also suggested that the Commission might consider asking other stakeholder groups in Town for additional endorsement support in the future.

Hazardous Tree List in Maynard: discussion was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

Members' Goals and Interests Roundtable:

-Lee wants to see the development of a bylaw, protection of the mature tree canopy in Town, and public education about all things “trees”.

-Leslie wants to develop a bylaw that would, among other things, strengthen tree removal procedures. She wants to advocate for trees as issues arise in deliberations of other Town boards. She wants to plan an arboretum at Glenwood Cemetery; and to create incentives that encourage people to plant trees.

-Steve wants to plant and have others plant more trees in Town, especially native ones. He believes that developing education programs will be key in achieving this goal. He supports Leslie’s idea of a cemetery arboretum. His final goal for the Committee is to find more opportunities “to have fun”.

-Orian wants to support urban trees through public education programs. She’s also interested in formulating long-term goals for the Committee.

-Neil wants public education to be a primary focus of the Committee. He supports Leslie’s cemetery arboretum idea, and he wants the Committee to seek out grant possibilities that it can advocate for and endorse when the Town applies for them.

-In summary, Leslie and Lee will start to focus on bylaw development; Neil and Orian will focus on developing public education ideas; and Steve will focus first on securing native trees for the Nason & Main tree planting project.

Road Salt on Town Streets:

Leslie expressed concern about the amounts of road salt used in the metro west region, including Maynard, and salt’s impact on public trees, streams and drinking water. The Committee would like to learn about the Town’s road clearing policy and about possible salt substitutes.

Open Meeting Law Training Session 3/22 at 6:30 via Zoom: Neil, Leslie and Lee will attend. Steven and Orian were given information packets about the Open Meeting Law when they were sworn in and subsequently took the online test.

Next Committee Meeting: tentatively set for March 24th.

MOTION to adjourn was made by Steve. It was seconded by Leslie and approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm.

UPCOMING MEETING: March 24, 2021 (subject to change)