

Town of Maynard
MAYNARD TREE COMMITTEE MEETING
Held Remotely Maynard, MA 01754
Wednesday, March 31, 2021 5PM

I. Call meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:02

Members Present: Lee Caras, Neil Pederson, Leslie Bryant, Orian Greene, Steve Smith

Liaison Non-voting Members Present: Justin DeMarco

Additional Attendees: Kate Wheeler

I. Call Meeting to Order

II. Approve Minutes of previous meeting(s):

March 10, 2021

- Motion to approve notes by Leslie; Seconded by Steve; and approved by all

Amended minutes of 2/10,

- Motion to approve by Orian; Seconded by Leslie; and approved by all

Amended minutes of 2/24.

- Motion to approve notes by Leslie; Seconded by Orian; and approved by all

III. Old Business:

- Downtown Tree Planting Plan

- Target a date for tagging trees to ensure purchase of desirable stock.
 - Steve reached out to two companies for species for availability
 - most species seem available
 - can tag trees in a week or so to reserve for this planting, mid to late April
- if some trees are not available or in good shape in Cavicchio's, can the town go to Millican's for other trees?
 - much in play. Will have to make that determination as trees are going to be tagged
- o If not all trees are available, can we plant in the fall with some of the other trees if they cannot be purchased now?
 - Absolutely. We will just have to defend why not all trees were planted.
 - This kind of education & defense is planned as a part of the Arbor Day celebration

- Relation to potential April award of grant for rain garden from MAPC?

- if awarded the grant, money for the trees in that spot
- if award comes through, can come through mid to late April,
- Arbor Day (celebrating it on 5/1)
 - Will the Select Board meeting on 4/6 approve of the gift of a tree to be planted along the Rail Trail?
 - o This event is on the Select Board meeting!
 - Clarification of town property line along Rail Trail
 - o Rail trail was former railroad
 - o Cannot assume the boundary is stable across space.
 - o Some abuts the trail; some are 30 feet away
 - o A request from Lee is a good way to determine rough ideas for boundary
- Road Salt policy in Maynard in relation to public street trees: what are the considerations?
 - o Almost all towns have switched to salt because of pollution control in estuaries and rivers
 - o Can no longer to use sand because of pollution standards (MS4 permit)
 - o Why they have increased street sweeping. It reduces organic input into the river and other water bodies
 - o Maynard follows state and national standards
- Tree Bylaw: preparation of draft is ongoing
 - o Lee and Leslie have been looking at bylaws in town and in other towns to see what is in place
 - o Long process. Want to cite what already exists for bylaws related to trees
 - o Will eventually work with other members when bylaws are developed
- How does celebrating Arbor Day relate to Tree City USA Growth Awards? Do those come with funding?
 - o We get points for celebrating Arbor Day?
 - We have to do it to stay in the Tree City USA program
 - Then growth awards come into play as we continue on in the program
 - Helps with DCR grants when we show we have been a part of Tree City USA for years

IV. New Business:

The Davey Tree Survey

- When does the free use of the Treekeeper software end,
 - o If what is provided is inaccurate, town has to correct the information. Believe the contract is up later this year
 - o Believe the iTree free software ends at the end of this year
 - o Have to see what is within our budget for continuance
 - o TreeKeeper uses the iTree platform, it seems

- Has the town had the opportunity to work with it to date?
 - o So far? Not so much from day-to-day
 - o Get inquiries about trees about 10-15 times per year (other than storms when it increases)
 - o Would like to use it if we get a larger grant to plant trees. Information from the site identified 60-70 sites where tree plants are needed
 - o Would be good if this committee or the Sustainability Committee use it for CO2 offset with tree planting or similar
 - Could help with future grant
 - o Justin will provide us with the hyperlink to access the data (offsets and such)
 - o Management plan was most important to acquire resources
 - Was recommended that the town spend \$250,000 on its tree canopy
 - o Data is in an Microsoft Access spreadsheet
 - Justin maintains a living excel spreadsheet
 - o Is it possible to help maintain this living document?
 - If we keep iTree, then maybe one tree committee member can help with the inventory; need administration permissions

- Is there a way for Committee members to explore the Survey conclusions, i.e., to see locations of specific trees and their conditions?

- Why does the Davey terms "extreme" risk and "high" risk trees relate to "hazardous" trees, as maintained on a town list?
 - o International Society of Arborists has found that through litigation has more defense than hazard. Risk is the standard
 - o Some of the verbiage is old world language
 - o Massachusetts put in the first tree bylaw in the US. Sometime in the 1800s

Glenwood Cemetery matching grant potential for tree plantings

- This property, listed on the State Historical Register, is eligible to apply for a MA Preservation Projects Fund matching grant (next awards-March 2022). Trees could be planted in the historic sections of the cemetery to restore the early landscape features. Could be leveraged to fund an arboretum at the Cemetery.
 - o A tangible project that the town would be behind
 - o Think big because Community Preservation Committee (CPC) could fund a \$50,000-100,000 project
 - Can plant
 - Can ID trees and put up placards
 - Could create a guide
 - Could be considered recreation
 - o Next round of applications to the CPC are in the fall

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-Member/public comments

- Next Maynard Tree Committee meeting will be April 28th at 5 pm

V. Adjournment

Proposed to adjourn - Leslie

Seconded by Steve

All in approved at 6:27 pm