

Town of Maynard
MAYNARD TREE COMMITTEE MEETING
Held Remotely Maynard, MA 01754
Wednesday, October 20, 2021 5PM

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

Liaison Non-voting Members Present: Justin DeMarco

Additional Attendees: Kate Wheeler

I. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:02 by Lee

II. Approve Minutes of previous meeting:

September 20, 2021

- Motion to approve minutes by Neil; Seconded by Orian; and approved by all

III. Old Business:

- Downtown Tree Planting Fall plan - Last three trees + replacement of Arbor Day Oak will be planted shortly.
 - Update: Steve chose two new horizon elms, 1 swamp white oaks, 1 water birch
 - Plan to plant for Tuesday, October 26
 - All tree pits are enlarged and prepped for planting
- Details of fall watering schedule
 - with the hope to water them in multiple data, Wed->Fri?, but will then have to remove hydrant setup when freezing is in the forecast, 32 or lower
 - Time to start tapering off the spring-planted trees perhaps this week. Maybe one more watering and then removing the gator bags from those trees to avoid damage and allow tapering to proceed
- Note: sidewalk and gutter cleanups during watering.
 - Is there a way to have pails of sand, if merchants agreed, for the cigarette butts?
 - Town does not provide those receptacles
 - Volunteering is ok, but need to communicate with the town about these plans
- Davey Tree Survey and treekeeper software (data resides in Microsoft Access)- new thoughts about access and use by the Committee.
 - New trees will not appear on the survey

- Each tree in the survey has a GPS marked ping that goes into the database
 - Starting to get inquiries on the various social media pages about the health or status of trees
 - Those trees need to be re-routed to DPW web site
 - Justin needs to make decisions on these trees, hazard or healthy, etc.
 - Assessor maps are not entirely accurate, so they need to be checked
 - Could we transport it to another platform if we can find one?
 - We could take the Davey spreadsheet and maintain it and hope we could eventually upload to another platform or Davey if we get more money
 - Neil has a GPS and can GPS the trees and enter the data.
- Tree Committee Bylaw development - report on meeting with Nancy Sofen, member of the Lexington Tree Committee
 - Lexington are getting their handbook written
 - Having similar issues as us and need to update their handbook
 - For Us:
 - What are the most important and most doable things in terms of bylaws?
 - Only Town trees? Also Yard trees?
 - Check out Cambridge's by-laws?
 - Cambridge's by-laws are 20-30 years in the making
 - By-laws are baby steps
 - Cambridge might be the most restrictive in the country
 - Suggestion: take a cue from Green Maynard's recent success with plastic bags by-laws
 - Get support from other committees and do a lot of education
 - Lexington has stiff fines, but are not enforced. If they were, tree situation would be better enforced
 - Lack of resources often lead to a lack of enforcement
 - Most successful cities have an enforcement agent; Maynard is lacking
 - What about the Crane Ave tree removal?
 - Fines are low and plans are poor. So, the owners could fight enforcement; costly in court; not recouped by the fine
 - Best approach is education
 - Suggestion: go to the Planning Board for some kind of regulation of replanting with native trees with new development

- Lee learned at the historical commission meeting that they want to put up a plaque saying that the area was called 'Amory's Grove' near the new fire station?
 - Maybe a small grove or a sense of it could be recreated?
 - The Planning Board is the way to make this happen
 - Once the building is completely built, we could request more trees to be planted
 - Expect pushback from the chief
- Glenwood Cemetery Newton apple tree - status (unless there is an update)
 - Carl Cathcart, a certified arborist, was maintaining the Newton Apple Tree
 - Steve will reach out to tell him we are starting to working with the tree

IV. New Business:

- A Student Representative for the Committee: Jamie Butler, a junior at Maynard High School is interested. She has received a copy of the Select Board Appointee Interview Questionnaire.
 - Not sure her paperwork is complete yet; had a game tonight and could not attend
 - On October 5th, Neil, Lee, and Kate gave a presentation to the Science and Green Club about the Tree Committee and that is where we met Jamie
 - Hope to meet up with Jamie soon to talk about our work and hear her ideas
 - Maybe a senior project?
- The Maynard Public Library has initiated a landscaping initiative
 - High visibility location
 - Maynard Tree Corps will be involved with the library's project
- Update from our Tree Warden, Justin DeMarco, on Town matters of importance to the Committee
 - Since our last meeting:
 - Under Tree Warden Designation, attended the New England ISA conference
 - Have to get educational credits
 - Limited resources in the industry
 - Pests are moving from the south to the north
 - Emerald Ash borer creeping into the state, but Maynard's ash population is small
 - Asian Longhorned Beetle – Worcester believes they have eradicated it
 - Spotted Lanternfly creeping up from the south

- Feeds on some trees, but more of a nuisance
 - One found in Fitchburg, luckily dead
- Initiated some tree removal
 - Look at the inventory and check on trees occasionally
 - Have been tracking inquiries about trees
 - Check ownership and then respond about what can be done
 - Backlogged about 2 years on tree removal
 - Have removed 8-12 public shade trees
 - Have removed other trees on other public properties
 - Almost out of funding for the year
 - Will withhold some of the budget to get to emergency tree removal
 - Have requested \$25k in the budget for tree resources
 - Typically request \$20k
 - Got zero the first year and then \$8k the next year
 - Davey Tree Survey suggests an increase to \$250,000
 - Need to focus on Massachusetts DCR grants over coming years
 - What is the cycle for these grants?
 - Check DCR website, grants might be due in December
 - <https://www.mass.gov/guides/urban-and-community-forestry-challenge-grants>
 - Looks like we missed the deadline:
 - “This grant program seeks to fund projects which will result in sustained improvements in local capacity for excellent urban and community forestry management.
 - Intent to Apply Deadline: October 1st
 - Application Deadline: November 1st
 - Match Rate: 50/50
 - Project for Environmental Justice Neighborhoods deadline the same
- Julie Coop loves Maynard Tree Committee/Corps
 - Used our ‘Coming Soon’ signs in her presentation at New England ISA
- Member/public comments
 - Tree Keeper Data

- Justin – would you be willing to pass the Access File to Maynard Tree Corps for Itree or similar?
 - Yes. Will send again.

V. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Leslie; Seconded by Lee; and approved by all at 6:36