

Town of Maynard
MAYNARD TREE COMMITTEE MEETING
Held Remotely Maynard, MA 01754
Wednesday, November 17, 2021 5PM

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

Liaison Non-voting Members Present: Justin DeMarco

Additional Attendees: Kate Wheeler

I. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:23 by Lee

II. Approve Minutes of previous meeting:

October 20, 2021

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

III. Current Items:

- Welcome to Jamie, our Student Representative
 - Welcome Jamie!
- Downtown Tree Planting Update
 - Trees are naturally hardening right now
 - Make sure the bags are empty before the nights when it goes below 32 F (freezing); could cause issues with the trunk
 - Fill them in the morning to ensure they are drained
 - Once we get a string of freezing nights, time to stop watering
 - Looks like Friday through Monday nights are below zero
 - So, bags will be taken off the trees on Thursday, November 18, 2021
- Tree Committee Bylaw
 - It is crucial to communicate and educate the public well before Town Meeting
 - Group is going to get going with a Tree Corps working subgroup
- Lee and Leslie met with with Bill Nemser, Planning Director, to have advisory input with regard to trees in new projects
 - Bill thought might be able to have some input because it was last updated in 2015
 - Bill urged to get in touch with the head of the Planning Board on Monday to let them know what we are working on and some of our goals
 - Bill thought it a good idea to have a liaison to attend when there are pre-application meetings when new development plans are being presented to the planning board (other departments/staff

attend (though not always)) before the folks officially propose to the Planning Board

- Justin thinks it might not be worth our time given our focus and efforts
- It is likely better to attend during the official presentation to the Planning Board if folks have the time and effort
 - Get involved or track the Select Board CHO (Community HOST Agreement) meetings to get the early signal about upcoming plans
 - Then stay involved with/track the Planning Board meetings to keep up with upcoming applications
 - Next one is the marijuana distribution center; likely several meetings ahead about marijuana impacts
- Planning Board has some input on private development, but not ultimately
- Glenwood Cemetery - Development of a planting plan for the older section of the cemetery with Tree Corps volunteers What are the possibilities?
- - Only nationally registered property in Maynard
 - What Justin envisions, if the downtown trees survive at a high rate,
 - Before the snow flies, walk the old section & find areas where shade trees would be nice
 - Natural planting of a large mix of species is preferable and much less hazard as the downtown trees (salt, etc)
 - Now is the time to plant because a lot of infrastructure is in good shape; what is missing are the trees
 - Ends of rows and gaps would be a good place to plant initially, but look for gaps
 - Perpetual Care funds are good to use for this, but the funds are dwindling a bit
 - Go to CPC to look for funding sources, go to the big buckets of funds in town
 - Like Dept of Cons Resources – better for right of way shade trees
 - Massachusetts Historic Grants is a good one; could use old pictures because we are restoring the cemetery to its original glory
 - Can we have donations, like some trees?
 - Yes, will have to gift (material or \$\$) like we did for the school
 - Has to be accepted by the Select Board
 - An account has to be set up and earmarked, otherwise it goes into the general fund.
 - Any restrictions on how large the tree can be if gifted

- No, essentially; needs to be vetted through the Tree Committee, Justin, and then up to the Select Board
- Maynard Public Library Landscape Initiative
 - 95% complete, thanks to the Tree Corps and Peter F. McBride Tree Service for their volunteer efforts

IV. New Business:

- Jamie Butler, a junior at Maynard High School, is now on the Maynard Tree Committee, also on the Maynard High School Green Committee
 - Some of Jamie's ideas
 - Maybe planting in the garden at the High School
 - Next Green Committee meeting is on November 30th, especially towards the front of the school
 - Will help build up moral of the students
 - Plan a day to teach about trees, take nature walks with students from Fowler, more, but maybe Green Meadow, too, as they are the future
 - Get the social media accounts going to get the word out.
 - Maybe the Green Committee could devise a plan for planting for the front of the school?
 - Maybe a class could donate a tree(s) as in the past?
 - Having a strong push from the students and put an educational curriculum piece on it and with this committee, could make it more persuadable with the superintendent
 - Front is still under landscaping control of the superintendent's office, so funding has to be gained through the superintendent's office to make these kinds of landscaping changes
 - Making deriving a target to raise funds, raise those funds, and present them, could really make it happen
 - Need to garner support throughout Maynard, people, various organizations (like High school tree committee, Green Maynard, Maynard Tree Corps), students, etc.
 - Can parents donate?
 - Mechanism for funding should come from/through the school
 - The Tree Committee cannot solicit funds
 - This committee can participate with the plan and then come up with a rough cost and then Justin can go to the school and see if we can find funds or set up funds
 - Most likely will come through the schools

- Update from our Tree Warden, Justin DeMarco, on Town matters of importance to the Committee
 - Nothing more than the trees being planted
 - There will be trees removed with the Florida Bridge upgrade
 - Maybe 10 trees, mostly Norway Maples that
- How do we open more accounts through the town for more tree vendors
 - Vendor name and whether they are certified by arborists and other similar groups,
 - Cannot purchase more than \$10,000 from one vendor. Then it has to go out for bid
- Member/public comments
 - Kate Wheeler asks about the lower level of Glenwood
 - Phase I: Some trees have been removed near the gazebo because they need space
 - Phase II: aboveground places of rest, cremation, etc. is a goal for that
 - Phase III (20-30 years out): an area of woodland, 1 acre or 2 potentially available for traditional burials
 - Anyhow, no more tree removals in the near future planned
 - Who is the liaison to work with Jamie
 - Neil volunteered
 - He and all should go through the CORI process to get officially approved to work on school grounds with students

V. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Steve; Seconded by Leslie; and approved by all at 6:43