

Town of Maynard  
MAYNARD TREE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Held Remotely Maynard, MA 01754  
Wednesday, January 12, 2022 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, Denise Shea

### **I. Call Meeting to Order**

Meeting called to order at 5:01 by Lee

### **II. Approve Minutes of previous meeting:**

November 17, 2021

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

### **For Discussion:**

- citizens' concerns about potential acorn hazard on downtown sidewalks from the White Oak and two Swamp White Oaks planted in tree wells on Nason and Main Streets
  - o a couple of people from the Maynard Tree Corps have volunteered to help sweep
  - o Justin, considered ADA standards for it potential interference of acorns
    - Benefits of trees overweigh the hazards of the acorns and can be mitigated by citizens and DPW
  - o Where is the swamp white oak located?
    - Away from crosswalk and handicapped parking location
  - o It will be a long time before acorns will be produced; they might not survive until they get to that point; maybe 50-100 years before a mast crop
  - o Denise Shea will take our information back to the ADA

### **III. Current Items:**

- Draft memo to the Planning Board regarding a suggested update to the Planning Board Landscape Regulations as amended July 28, 2015 [EXHIBITS: 1- draft memo distributed 2- PB Landscape and Regulations found on the Town website under Planning Board "Resources"].
  - o There is consideration to change landscaping regulations. It is long overdue
  - o Want to draft it so the Tree Committee can approach the Planning Board with full support
  - o Goals in the Draft Memo
    - Encourage native species where all possible

- No concerns within the committee
- Will provide a Mass DCR resource to native trees
- Concerns about landscape plan for a new project about removing mature trees during construction that mature trees is a fuzzy definition
  - Proposal: create thresholds for the four main class sizes as proposed by the Maynard Tree Corps
  - Will deserve more attention
  - Might create a large burden on the contractor
  - Need to be legally defensible
  - Needs to be supported by documentation
  - Discussion needs to be vetted by the entire committee
    - Put on next agenda to give time to determine ways moving forward
- Concern about existing vegetation in 5.3.4 about including a plan to remove invasive species
  - Might be a good idea to add excluding trees of a certain size
  - But, depends. Some large Norway Maples could be left, but maybe Tree of Heaven would be removed
  - This is already a required part of a development plan
  - For larger developments, having existing conditions identified are not a huge cost; usually done by a landscape architect
- Another concern is about the term town inspector
  - who maintains these standards?
    - Planning Board does not have the authority to create work, so they cannot assign work for a specific inspector
  - This should likely stand as it is
- Another concern is vegetation that is not thriving in a healthy manner
  - Should the town inspector make that decision?
    - It is tricky, in one case, 2-3 tree plantings were declining; Justin was requested to inspect them; as he is certified, he is qualified to make those decisions; use American Nursery Standards
- Another Concern is the waiver section about alternative landscape plans
  - Want to consider an alternative tree removal that a fee schedule be developed for the removal of trees that go against regulations
  - That fee would go into a town tree fund
  - There are fines and then sometimes there could be replacement; Cambridge does fine for tree removal; other towns do as well

- Need to secure a public funding account; this would be a revolving fund account; needs to be adopted at a town meeting
  - Need to get the Planning Board to adopt new regulations
  - Need to gauge if there is interest in this
  - Questions:
    - Who is the enforcing agent of this regulation?
    - Who is the inspector of this regulation?
  - If the language is changed to “may consider” a fee, would that be more acceptable?
    - Could require replacement or \$\$ to an existing fund for future tree planting
  - Have to word very carefully
- Maynard High School tree projects [n.b., permission required from Schools Superintendent]
- Neil has not yet had a chance to meet with Jamie about this project
    - Trying to match schedules
  - Green Maynard brought up a possible celebration of Earth Day
    - Jamie brought up the idea for Earth Day & Green Maynard wants to reach out to the Maynard HS science club mentors
  - It might be best to center it around or combine it with Arbor Day so Maynard could also maintain its Tree USA designation
  - Let’s chat with Jamie about moving this forward, possible tree planting, for example, around Arbor Day
  - Lee and Leslie attended the Visioning Session about the new elementary school
    - Lee and Leslie put in their comment about protecting/not harming the small woods in front of Green Meadow and the wetlands around the school
    - Orian might be able to lead an awareness campaign about the woods; Neil, too
    - Leslie was encouraged by the idea that they might entertain a multistoried school to preserve the nature around the current Green Meadow
    - Lee was in a breakout group with school superintendent and Charles Gobron, a Maynard Public Schools administrator
    - Landscape plans for the High School are available through the Planning Board at Town Hall. Steve will request access. He knows a principal at Warner Larson, who developed the original plans less likely for Green Meadow
- Glenwood Cemetery tree projects:
- [EXHIBIT: DCR Preservation Guidelines for Municipally Owned Historic Burial Grounds and Cemeteries, 3rd edition, 2009 at [www.mass.gov/documents](http://www.mass.gov/documents)].

- Considerations about planting conditions per this 2001 grant-funded study if not updated.
  - Have there been a follow up on the 2001 study of Glenwood Cemetery? Any work done or surveys based on that study
    - Justin asked the Committee to provide a copy of the DCR document for his review
    - Usually there is a feasibility study to help develop capital plans
    - Survey said soil testing was needed, for example.
      - Can't answer the question without seeing the study
- Do perpetual care fund goes to trees?
  - There are two sources
  - A secondary fund can be used to do pavement work, for example. Current balance is \$60,000
    - Can be used for planting
    - May be able to get matching funding to do tree planting,

#### **IV. New Business:**

- Town Clerk's Office, Robert Maynard is assisting the clerk office and asked for a current roster of members in each town committee, what their positions are, and at what point is each member in their term
  - Lee thought we were 1- year terms; do we have to get sworn in again?
  - Robert thought that Jamie, as our student rep, he thought, is not a voting member of the committee
  - Robert will get back to us
- In reviewing the last year, we should be really proud of what we accomplished!
  - We are not required to submit an annual report to the Town Manager
  - Should submit one, anyhow
  - Summary:
    - Has been a year of learning
      - what our role is and how to route our advice and concerns
      - have learned about Right-of-Ways
      - Learned what parcels are under the purview of DPW
    - Projects Completed
      - Mission statement development
      - Student Rep
      - Arbor Day Tree Celebration, multifaceted
        - Tree planting workshop
        - Downtown Tree Walk
      - Downtown Tree Arboretum
        - Maynard Tree Corps came up with list
      - Public Education tour of Downtown Arboretum
      - GIGANTIC watering effort
        - Drew in new people as a part of this process

- Initial watering stretched for weeks because of early season drought
- Projects initiated, but not completed
  - Tree By-law
    - GOAL: have a draft by late March, perhaps
  - Started work on Glenwood Cemetery plan
  - Initial work started on the schools
    - Lee noted that tree people had gotten permission to plant at the Fowler School; noted how that tree is thriving
  - Suggestions to the Planning Board to update tree-related work
- Projects not started
  - Grants calendar to know when to find more \$\$
  - Possible Arbor Day celebration
  - More shade trees planted along roadways
  - Trees around Green Meadow about dates and times and how to raise awareness
  - Trees at high school in poor condition
  - Speaker Series to get people excited about trees in town
    - Maybe once every quarter; arborist, landscape architect, etc.
    - More Maynard Tree Corps work, but with support from the Maynard Tree Committee? Maybe a co-sponsorship program
  - Diversify the nurseries that we can obtain trees from
- Kate Wheeler, representing Maynard Tree Corps,
  - was wondering what we could do to undertake maintenance to help support DPW and Tree Committee, with expert guidance
  - Yes, as long as covered by insurance,
    - Project needs to be defined (like pruning of downtown trees)
    - Volunteers need to be defined
    - Location needs to be defined
    - Approved by the town
    - Want to see some expertise for each proposal
  - What is the best process?
    - Depends on the person and project
    - Ultimately, need something written down and submitted
- Any funding left in the pot shop mitigation monies?
  - Yes, a small amount is held in reserve.

## V. Adjournment.

- Motion to adjourn: Leslie, Seconded by Steve

- Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm

*UPCOMING MEETING: February 16, 2022 (tentative)*