

Town of Maynard
MAYNARD TREE COMMITTEE MEETING
Held Remotely Maynard, MA 01754
Wednesday, April 20, 2022 5:30 PM

Members Present: Lee Eyler, Leslie Bryant, Steve Smith, Neil Pederson

Member Absent: Jamie Butler

Liaison Non-voting Members Present: Justin DeMarco

Additional Attendees: Kate Wheeler, Orian Greene, Danny Schissler

I. Call meeting to Order

Motion to Approve Minutes of March 16, 2022: Leslie Bryant, Steve Smith

- i. Motion approved

II. Current Items:

- a. Maynard Climate Action Plan – Orian Greene
 - i. Started in the fall with the Sustainability Committee
 - ii. Aim to meet the Massachusetts goal of cutting reductions of 50% by 2030
 - iii. Maynard is doing well relative to other towns
 - iv. Feel strongly the town needs to commit
 - v. Maynard Sustainability Committee is working on the plan regardless of what the town decides to do
 - vi. Looking for a vote of support from the Maynard Tree Committee to support Article 3, Maynard Climate Emergency Declaration
 - vii. Motion to support Article 3, Maynard Climate Emergency Declaration by Leslie, Seconded by Steeve
 1. Neil votes yes
 2. Steve votes yes
 3. Leslie votes yes
 4. Lee votes yes
 - viii. Motion approved 4-0
- b. Committee Membership:
 - i. Danny Schissler
 1. Is scheduled to be sworn in as a voting member
 - ii. Pete Cadieux
 1. as a potential associate member; is coaching this spring and hopes to attend this summer
- c. High School liaison for Senior Projects?
 - i. Rochelle Lerner sent an email on April 15 saying she has a senior who has been president of the high school Green Committee and would like to participate with Arbor Day Eastern Redbud tree plantings and watering
 - ii. Lee has not heard back when she replied to Rochelle about the request

- iii. Lee would like to make connections to Jean LaBelle-Pierce of Maynard High School to help coordinate a senior project next year
- d. Arbor Day Update:
 - i. Report by Steve
 - 1. Redbuds have been tagged;
 - 2. 6 foot trees; might not survive as well; difficult to transplant except when young
 - 3. Steve has picked three spots for planting at the high school and has contact for a key to water
 - ii. Report by Lee
 - 1. Will get signs for these trees; like the Tulip Tree at Fowler
 - 2. Ceremony invitations have been sent out
 - 3. the gift of trees accepted by the Select Board
 - 4. Was advertised in the high school newsletter and weekly newsletter to Maynard residents
- e. Downtown Arboretum Trees:
 - i. Justin requested \$20,000 to create a new line for tree removal and planting in FY23, which starts in July;
 - 1. Town Administration made a recommendation
 - 2. Select Board has moved it forward
 - 3. Needs to be approved at Town Meeting
 - ii. Will it be help for the Maynard Tree Committee and Maynard Tree Corps to write letters for support?
 - 1. Would have been better at the beginning of the budgeting process
 - 2. Can show up at Town Meeting as a resident to support it
- f. Danny has been working with Kate Wheeler and her son to update the tree survey map
 - i. Hoping Justin can update us; quarterly or twice a year is most likely
- g. Q & A with Justin DeMarco, our Tree Warden:
 - i. The town does only much tree work that is deemed as absolutely necessary
 - ii. Eversource does come through and Justin reviews and approves the plans, but they do not technically need town permission
 - 1. Eversource has GIS data, so they know public and private trees; sometimes they get clarification from Justin
 - 2. What about quality control?
 - a. Eversource and town can work together on that
 - i. Justin does spot drive-by to inspect
 - ii. People can send reports to Justin is they see something that does not look good
 - iii. Are there funds to support the trees downtown?
 - 1. There are some funds set aside; mostly set aside for replanting if one tree fails

2. Suggest: wait to see the trees bud out and make decisions
3. Recommendations on fertilization?
 - a. organic fertilizers
4. Should we be watering?
 - a. Yes, the trees that were planted last fall
 - b. Plenty of time to begin to water those trees still
- iv. How to judge if a tree is on a road without sidewalks is private or public?
 1. Depends on the survey for each road and needs to be made by the tree warden

h. Tree Committee Bylaw:

- i. Lee made a presentation to the By-law committee
 1. Generally, folks wondered why this was needed for trees
 - a. Some education is needed
 2. Was questioned if this was for public or private trees
 - a. This is only for public trees
 3. There is a state law, but it can be customized by each town
- ii. Generally, there is no written procedure for creating a new by-law; can be made by anyone
 1. The by-law committee formalizes the process
 2. Town legal counsel goes over the by-law
 3. If approved, it goes for approval at Town Meeting
- iii. Discussion by full Committee, with emphasis on definitions section
 1. Caliper:
 - a. Look at International Society of Arborists for the definition
 - b. Also Mass Certified Horticulturalists for a definition
 2. Will work more on definitions; suggest to cite sources for definitions to include in the by-law

III. New Business:

- i. Report on new regional tree organizations group:
 1. Lee reports that the new group will be very useful
 2. We were invited by a member of the Lexington Tree Committee
 3. Upcoming meeting is a panel with people talking about tree by-laws
 - a. Lee will forward information before next meeting about the committees, topics, etc.
 4. Meetings are monthly
 - a. Would people be willing to do a rotation of these meetings?

IV. Member/public comments

- a. Kate Wheeler speaking to the by-law portion of our discussion:

- i. Kate put the following into the comments: The town's most recent master plan, Master plan goal LU2-4, says, "Increase Maynard's percentage of tree canopy coverage through protection of existing forested areas, implementation of an annual planting program, focusing new development on reuse of previously built properties, and a more robust landscape requirements for developments."
- ii. Is this a part of the by-law mission?
 - 1. More of a goal
 - 2. Not sure how to include it, yet, but it is important
- iii. Kate suggests that the by-law start with this goal
- iv. Is this a part of the town's master plan chart?
 - 1. Yes!

V. **Adjournment**

- a. Motion to Adjourn: Steve Smith; Leslie Bryant seconded the motion
 - i. Motion approved
 - ii. Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm

UPCOMING MEETING: May 18, 2022 (tentative)