

Hartford Tree Board Meeting
April 19, 2022
Minutes
Hartford Municipal Building
5:00pm

Mission: The Tree Board's mission is to plant and maintain public trees and advocate community tree stewardship.

Board Members attending: Jeff Arnold, Chair, Karen Watson, Leif Smedman, Clare Forseth
Others Attending: Scott Hausler, Director of Park and Recreation, Michael Quinn, Bob Little Tree

Meeting Called to Order at 5:04 p.m.

Business:

1. Approval of March minutes: The minutes were passed unanimously.
2. Tree Warden potential candidate: Bob Little Tree indicated an interest in the Tree Warden position. He recently became aware of the position opening and wanted time to investigate the time commitment and skills needed to fulfill the position. He is aware of online seminars and will look at the Vermont Tree Warden Statues. He is very knowledgeable on the EAB and other tree pests and invasive species. Jeff will send Bob some information on the responsibilities.
3. Review 4/16 pre-ID walk and divy up trees and subjects to be discussed among those who will guide the 4/23/22 public Tree ID walk. Leif Smedman and David Barrell will not be available on the official day of the walk. Michael Quinn, a retired Hartford Middle School teacher, who lives in Windsor, has offered to assist us in the identification process. Ensure that the 4/23 walk is properly advertised.
 - a. The walk has been/will be advertised in Valley News, Hartford and Upper Valley listserv, sandwich board outside Town Hall, announcement at local places, email to past participants.
 - b. Jeff will give a history of the reservoir and the trees were divided up among the board members that will be attending the walk.
4. Plan for the May 7th Arbor Tree Sale. We need two members to pick out the Northern Nurseries stock that we will add to our nursery stock. We will need to discuss signage and advertising of the event and find out who will be in attendance that day and who can help load our saplings into Jeff's pickup truck on the Friday afternoon before the Saturday event.
 - a. Jeff will contact Mike at Northern Nurseries to see if he has plants and when is a good time for us to select plants.
 - b. Clare and Jeff will select plants. As many as possible are needed to dig up saplings and load onto Jeff's truck on Friday, May 6th. Clare and Karen will dig up and clean pots at the nursery earlier in the week. Clare will invite Little Tree to the sale and Balloon festival.

- c. Someone will need to make a spreadsheet with prices of plants and mark-ups. Price tags are also needed to put on plants on Saturday.
- 5. Find out who will staff a booth during the Balloon Festival which starts 3PM Friday, June 17th and ends June 19th at 5:30PM. What will our booth display? What hours and days do we want to staff the booth? Should we just set up on Saturday?
 - a. Leif and David will talk to PJ Skehan and see if we can set up on just Saturday June 18th. We will provide a tent and table. Hopefully, the Chamber will limit the activity around the newly planted trees on the Quechee Green.
- 6. Review Karen Watson's Quechee Times article.
 - a. Karen will submit her article about the tree planting on the Quechee Green with a picture. She will follow-up with an article and picture after the trees are planted.
- 7. Karen shared her skit about the Emerald Ash Borer with the board. She is hoping to get one of the Hartford Summer Recreation Programs to make props and perform the skit. She will work with Scott and Jay at Parks and Rec as they get the summer programs staffed. Karen will ask at Northern Stage to see if they have interns that might help with the performance. Rob Haehnel's name came up as a possible connection.
- 8. Discuss the latest news about the spread of EAB in our area and what to do about it. Should we start cutting down ash trees in the right of way and offer the wood as free cordwood?
 - a. Leif shared facts he learned from an online seminar about the EAB. It travels 1-2 mi/year, \$10.7 billion spent on mitigation, 286 insect species are dependent on the ash tree, white ash has some resistance, adults are moving during May and June; some signs of EAB activity are epicormic sprouts, d shaped exit holes, "s" shaped galleries, as well as woodpecker activity and tree top dieback.
 - b. Leif suggested that the board plan outings around the villages to evaluate the ash trees as well as other trees in the urban landscape.
 - c. Cutting healthy ash trees vs cutting ash trees showing decline was discussed without a decision.
 - d. Some native non-stinging wasps have been shown to kill EAB larvae.
- 9. Review the finalized Shade Tree Plan. I will send a copy to everyone to print out for the meeting. Clare and I attended a meeting with the other 13 towns who also worked on Shade Tree Plans. None of them have finished theirs or put theirs in front of their Selectboards yet. Some are calling all trees in the Right of Way that are 6 inches in diameter Shade Trees and another town is calling all 10-inch DBH trees in the ROW Shade Trees.
- 10. Update on tree replacement in front of the Quechee Post Office if there is any.
 - a. Ken has selected the plants. Planting sites for new trees should be marked. The Board should be aware of the planting schedule and take pictures.
 - b. The memorial plaque will be laid in the mulch under one of the new trees.
 - c. Jeff will write to the contributors and thank them and indicate a check to Trees Matter is sufficient.
 - d. Quechee Lakes will pay half of the price of the trees. Jeff will contact David for other contributors.
- 11. Comments from Michael:
 - a. Michael is still figuring out a way to share information pertinent to the Board's discussions. He shared with the board the importance of the Tree Warden to

- know how to evaluate hazard trees, knowing the width of ROW on roads, and the protocols of calling a Public Hearing if necessary.
- b. It was suggested that he contact the chair when the agenda is posted as to what items he might like to address. The Board values his inputs.

Meeting adjourned: 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Clare Forseth, Secretary

Signed this 17TH day of May, 2022.

Raen Watson
Vice Chair