

HARTFORD TREE BOARD MINUTES

May 16, 2020 | 5 pm | Meeting called to order by Jeff Arnold, Chair

Commission Members In Attendance

Jeff Arnold, Gaal Shepard, David Barrell, Clare Forseth

Commission Members Absent

Leif Smedman

Others in Attendance

None

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Jeff Arnold. Seconded by: Gaal Shepard

In Favor All Opposed None

The motion was Approved or Disapproved? Approved

Citizen Comments

None

Commission Member Comments

Gaal reports that there are still issues with the trees in the median entrance to the High School. Box elder in Quechee still needs attention - it is leaning over Main Street. Clare will look into watering the new trees on So Main St. Quechee Green trees are looking okay. The Board will continue to monitor those trees.

Directors Report

None

Old Business

1) Tree Warden Report: The Tree Warden is recovering from hip surgery. He reported that two dead elms just north of Rt 5 intersection and Rt 14 need to come down. He says to wait on the trees by White River Family Eyecare since they might just be honey locusts that haven't leafed out yet. Says also that sick and dying elms should probably be removed on Pine St, which has been done.

2) Grant Update: Joanne Garton from VUCF will give her reactions to our riparian invasive removal Grant work and demonstrate using ArcGIS to inventory Municipal shade trees. Please join us on May 23rd at 3:45 to go around the Town Hall and update the inventory which still has the elm trees that were replaced with the Tulip Tree, the Gum Tree and the Black Walnut and which doesn't have the fruit trees on the front lawn or others in the park like the Black Spruce.

3) Evaluate and discuss our well attended April 22nd Aquatic Center Tree Walk: Because of the confusion about the meeting place for the beginning of the walk, the Board needs to coordinate better at the next tree walk. The 20 + participants were very appreciative of the effort the Board put into the event. Our next tree walk will likely be in the fall.

4) Discuss how our very successful May 6 th Arbor Day Tree and Shrub sale went: The final net earnings are not in, but the Board agreed that it was a very successful event. Three people were in the industry and seemed interested in the sale. The variety of shrubs and trees was good.

5) Describe the process that Leif and Jeff took to plant 54 cottonwood stakes on the east end of the riparian buffer zone as designated in our Grant: They went down to the river, cut them and Leif had a heavy metal bar to dig a hole and they dug them in a third or half the length. Most of the stalks are leafing out. The Board will continue to monitor and cut the new knotweed shoots that are growing. Jeff also put silky dogwood stakes in the ground along the river.

6) Discuss how restocking our nursery went on May 11th where we planted 100 rootstocks in 3-gallon pots; 10 Silver Maples, 10 Silky Dogwoods, 10 Tamaracks, 15 Paper Birches and 10 gray Birches and another 50 shrubs for our riparian project: 20 arrowheads, 20 Nanny berries and 10 serviceberries that were purchased from Redstart Forestry: Jeff prepared the nursery bed ahead of time and ordered the mulch, compost and soil, plants and pots. Six Board members and volunteers spent 2 hours potting all the plants and placing them in the nursery. Watering schedule: Leif - May, Clare - June, Jeff - July, Gaal - August, and David - September.

7) Plan for the planting of the 16+ unsold trees comprised of a mix of cottonwoods, black willows and silver maples on the west side of the Grant's riparian buffer zone.: The Board is hoping for about 6 people to plant the trees Wednesday, May 24th at 9 AM. Bring a shovel and watering can. Jeff will email the Hartford Conservation Commission for volunteers.

8) Plan for a July invasive removal day to complete Grant objective to which the community and other groups like HCC will be invited. Necessary tools for removal and who will identify invasives for removal: The Board is hoping for a decent volunteer turnout to remove the invasive plants (mostly non-native honeysuckle) from the area from the bridge to the cleared knotweed area. The removal will be on Saturday, July 8th. The Board should talk to the HCC about their wish to share some of their expertise on identifying invasive plants. Maybe they have a source for getting a weed wrench. Other tools needed will be clippers/cutters for the vines and raising crowns of some trees.

9) Discuss the need to plant the yellowwoods, the katsura, the swamp oak and the plane tree that have been reserved at NN and where they will go and who will remove the two elms on Rt 5 by White River Elementary. Jeff will talk to Scott about the logistics of planting the trees. Clare will send an order for 8 tree-gaters to Scott to buy.

10) Tree of the Month Report: May Tree of the Month is the swamp oak on S. Main Street and June's Tree of the Month will be the sycamore also on S Main Street. Then all three Tree of the Months will be in a row.

11) Gaal will look for something to put on the knotweed at dog park 6:15

New Business

1. Gaal will look for something to put on the knotweed at the dog park around the horse chestnut tree.

Agenda Items for Next Commission Meeting

Next Meeting

June 20, 2023

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by: Jeff Arnold No Quorum _____

Seconded by: Gaal Shepard

All in Favor: All Opposed: None

Respectfully submitted by: Clare Forseth Signature: 

Date: May 18, 2023

Hartford Tree Board Commission Members

- Jeff Arnold, Chair (03/07/2025)
- Clare Forseth, Secretary (11/15/2024)
- David Barrell, Treasurer (06/01/2023)
- Leif Smedman, Member (06/01/2023)
- Gaal Shepherd Cowl (10/01/25)
- Jim Henderson, Tree Warden
- Vacant (2 positions)