HARTFORD TREE BOARD MINUTES

Date 10/17/23 | *time* 5 pm | *Meeting called to order by* Jeff Arnold

Commission Members In Attendance

Jeff Arnold, Chair, David Barrell, Leif Smedman, Alan Haehnel, Clare Forseth

Commission Members Absent

Gaal Shepherd Crowl

Others in Attendance

Scott Hausler, Director of Parks and Recreation

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Jeff Arnold. Seconded by: David Barrell

In Favor All Opposed None

The motion was Approved or Disapproved? Approved

Citizen Comments

None

Commission Member Comments

None

Directors Report

None

Old Business

1) Apportion trees to members for ID walk on Oct. 21st at Ratcliffe Park and Riverwalk Food Forest

- Clare will send out assignments.

2) Jeff Arnold's appointment with the Selectboard regarding the Tree Warden position is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct 17th. Jeff will go before the selectboard to be considered for the appointment to be Hartford Tree Warden.

- Jeff will look at the State statues and Hartford Tree Board bylaws to see how the tree warden and the board members can work together to monitor the Town's street trees. The plan is to have the Tree Warden report to the Tree Board on those trees that are considered street trees.
- There was a discussion concerning the Tree Warden's budget and the Tree Board's budget and David Barrell, the Board's treasurer, will be invited to look over the Tree Warden's budget if requested. David's focus, however, will be the Tree Board budget.

3) Is the plastic harming the trees? How are the 40+ shrubs doing that we planted? Finalizing and reporting out on the grant in November.

- It was decided that the trees in the area covered with black plastic will be fine for the winter and continued evaluation may be necessary next year.
- The shrubs seems to be doing fine.
- Jeff will finalize the grant report in November.

4) Vote on which of five species of trees to plant in Lyman Point Park to honor the passing of long time HCC member Linda Wilson and consider whether to contribute $300 towards the purchase and planting of the tree. Karen Douville is raising the $800 needed to purchase and plant the tree. The five species that they are considering are: white oak, swamp oak, yellow birch, sassafras and hackberry.

- The Board voted unanimously to select the hackberry to be planted at Lyman Point Park in memory of Linda Wilson and to contribute $300 toward the purchase.
- Clare and Karen will contact Northern Nurseries before February to alert them to our decision so they can include the hackberry tree in their order.
- A presentation of the tree will be in the spring. Karen will be informed that Scott can help with any plaque that the family would like to add to the tree.
- Clare will connect Karen with the Jericho Community Club who expressed a desire to recognize Linda also.

5) Bring in a current topic related to urban trees to discuss.

- Jeff shared an article about beech tree disease found in southern Vermont. Nematodes, which fit into the cellular structure of leaves has been detected. They keep the tree from photosynthisising. Much needs to be learned about the nematodes and how they spread from tree to tree.

- NH State Forest Nursery in Boscawen has a program where they are only growing native trees. Every year they produce 3 million seedlings on 16 acres of irrigated outdoor seedbeds and 20 acres dedicated to seed orchards and testing areas and for the past four years they have sold out of all their seedlings. Christmas Tree species make up about 50% of its sales to large commercial growers. They dry conifer seeds to the correct moisture content and package and store them in a freezer

which will keep for many years. In fact, they have a 3 pound bag of balsam fir seed preserved from 1994 and white pine seed from 1987.

6) Tree of the Month report and interest in adopting Clare's program from

a member of the West Fairlee Conservation Commission.

- Clare shared the Tree of the Month with the West Fairlee Conservation Commission who were interested in starting a similar program.
- November Tree of the month will be river birch at park and ride.
- Board members decided that it didn't make sense to try to continue the tree of the month when the ground is frozen.

New Business

Agenda Items for Next Commission Meeting

Next Meeting

November 16,2023

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by: Jeff Arnold

Seconded by: Clare Forseth

All in Favor: All Opposed: none

Respectfully submitted by: Clare Forseth Signature: Clare Forseth

Date: October 19, 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 Crowl, Member (210/1/25)
- Alan Haehnel, Member (2026)
- Jeff Arnold, Tree Warden
- Vacant (1 positions)