

HARTFORD TREE BOARD MINUTES

*Date 1/23/24 | time 5pm | Meeting called to order by Jeff Arnold*_____

Commission Members In Attendance

Jeff Arnold, Chair and Tree Warden, Gaal Shepherd Crowl, Leif Smedman, David Barrell, Clare Forseth

Commission Members Absent

Alan Haehnel

Others in Attendance

Scott Hausler, Parks and Recreation Director, Laura Simon, Resilient Hartford

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Leif Smedman_____Seconded by: Gaal Crowl_____

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) Resilient Hartford will give a 5 min summary of the Clifford Park Food Forest and take questions. a Laura Simon. a member of Resilient Hartford shared with the board the issues and plans the group is involved in. The Parks and Recreation Department gave the group permission to plant a food forest on the playing fields that are no longer being used at Clifford Park and make it an educational endeavor. After planting many fruit and nut trees the area flooded and they realized the soil may have become contaminated. They are now in the process of finding alternative land, building up the riparian buffer, and supplementing the soil at Clifford Park. The state will not allow them to bring any fertilizer or even wood chips in to the park to ameliorate the

soil because it is a declared flood zone. They can only compost materials found on site. They will try pollinator plants and coordinate with Abenaki people about other recommended plantings. Laura would like the board to think of ways we may help their efforts. The Board shared that we get our bare root stock from Redstart. We agreed to share information.

2) Tree Warden Report:

Jeff will continue to work on a form for people to fill out who would like the Tree Warden to look at potentially hazardous trees. Eight dying silver maple trees at the end of Highland Ave trees were removed. T&T Stump Grinding and Property Management is behind schedule and they will contact Jeff when they can continue the tree work. Scott, Jeff and Jim LaMontagne looked at work that needs to be done at Ratcliffe Park. Two large Norway Maples are dying and cracking but Jim doesn't have the equipment to take them down. The shrubs and vines growing around trees that were planted along the riparian buffer will be labor intensive. A bid of \$900 however, was given to prune the crab apple, three ash trees and to remove a box elder that is leaning over Latham Works Lane.

3) Go over the requirements of Clare's \$20,000 Grant request, its timeline and objectives and means of implementation.

Grant request for the Communities Caring for Canopy Grant. \$10,000 grant + \$10,000 matching= \$20,000

The grant's deadline is October 2025 so we have some time to complete the requirements.

Basically:

- Have 7 trees planted (one of those trees is Linda Wilson's memorial tree)
- Have 3 hazardous trees removed (two maples and one white pine)
- Have riparian buffer cleaned up of invasives and the tree canopy lifted
- *Purchase and plant in our nursery 40 rootstock of species that grow well on a riparian buffer
- *Water and maintain trees and plants for 8 months
- *Highlight trees in the park for the Tree of the Month program
- *Hold a Tree ID Walk in Park
- * Starred items are the things the volunteers (us, HCC, public) will do, other work will be subcontracted out.

4) What to do with the Tree City USA signs located in the Park & Recreation closet.

Clare contacted Jeremy Delisle at DPW and he said he would display the signs on/near the Hartford signs on Rt 14 coming in from West Lebanon and Rt 10 coming in from Norwich.

5) Pencil in tentative dates for three tree ID walks, Arbor Day Sale, ordering and replanting of nursery and Quechee Balloon Festival.

Arbor Day Sale - May 4: Tree ID walks: May 18, July 20 and Oct 19

Booth at the Balloon Festival: June 15

Plant root stock in Nursery: May 11. The Board should find helpers for the planting of 50 trees and 40 bushes.

6) Karen Douville Memorial Tree payment. Linda Wilson. Linda's life was written up in the Valley News. She was a back to the land, independent kind of woman who with her husband built their own house in the Jericho District and was one of the first employees of Upper Valley Land Trust. She was active in many environmental issues locally and served on the Hartford Conservation Commission. The Tree Board donated \$300 toward a memorial tree to be planted in Lyman Park.

7) Discuss our representation at the Environmental Stewardship Mix and Mingle scheduled for Thursday February 29, 2024 at 6 pm at the Bugbee Center. The objective of this event is to introduce community members to the wide variety of local environmental citizen and natural science stewardship opportunities available. The format for this in-person event (might be streamed on CATV) would be to start with individual short 5 minute presentations by each group to highlight each group's primary purposes and activities. The overviews would be followed by the opportunity for attendees with an interest in any group to talk with us to find out further details and contact information. We will have the opportunity to set up a small display table, so that we can talk with folks before and after the summary presentations.

Attending will be Hartford Conservation Commission, Hartford Tree Board, Hartford Salamander Team, Hartford Climate Action Steering Committee, Hartford Garden Friends, Vermont Center for Natural Sciences (VINS), Vermont Center for Ecostudies, White River Partnership and Resilient Hartford.

Gaal and Jeff will present and set up a table.

Jeff shared an article in the Valley News about eastern white pine conifer seeds. It seems that every few years the white pine produces an over abundance of seeds , called mast years, to overwhelm the animals/predators that eat their seeds such as red squirrels and red-breasted nuthatches and therefore seeds are allowed to potentially find soil to grow. During other years the seed production is limited, so the animal population is reduced. The white pine has both male and female cones. The male cones give off a pollen that fertilizes the female cone that will produce seeds and fall from the tree. It is only female cones that are found on the ground.

New Business

1. Gaal researched planters that could be used in parking lots/sidewalks in and around town. Jeff and David will continue to investigate their possible uses.

Agenda Items for Next Commission Meeting

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by: Leif Smedman

Seconded by: Clare Forseth

All in Favor: All Opposed: None

Respectfully submitted by: Clare Forseth __ Signature: _____

Date: 1/26/24

Hartford Tree Board Commission Members

- Jeff Arnold, Chair (03/07/2025)
- Clare Forseth, Secretary (11/15/2024)
- David Barrell, Treasurer (06/01/2026)
- Leif Smedman, Member (06/01/2026)
- Gaal Shepherd Crawl Member and Deputy Tree Warden (2/10/25)
- Alan Haehnel Member (2026)
- Jeff Arnold, Tree Warden
- Vacant (1 positions)