

3/19/24

HARTFORD TREE BOARD MINUTES

2/20/24 | 5 pm | Meeting called to order by Jeff Arnold

Commission Members In Attendance

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

Commission Members Absent

Alan Haehnel

Others in Attendance

None

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Gaal Shepherd Crowl. Seconded by: Jeff Arnold

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) Tree Warden Report:

Two Norway maple trees were cut in Ratcliffe Park. Stump grinding was done also by TNT Stump Grinding and Property Maintenance. Jeff is getting bids for the removal of three trees at the Barwood ice rink.

2) Go over the final report on last year's Riparian Buffer Project.

Jeff handed in the final grant report and shared pictures from our activities along the riparian buffer at Town Hall and the planting of trees on Pine Street.

3) Update on this year's Lyman Point Project:

Chippers looked at the trees at Lyman Point Park and decided two maple trees and one white pine should be removed. The butter dying butternut and black spruce should also be removed. Two other maple trees should be cabled. Clare ordered the seven trees from Northern Nurseries. Jeff will get bids from three companies to do the work.

4) Tree City USA sign installation:

The two signs were left at the Public Works Department who will put up the signs on Rt 10 coming into Wilder and Maple Street coming from West Lebanon.

5) Put May 23rd on our calendars for the Vt Urban and Communities Workshop/Conference. Grant recipients need to be represented.

Scott has money set aside for our attendance to the conference.

6) Setting up a table on Thursday February 29th for the Environmental Stewardship Mix and Mingle at 6 pm at the Bugbee Center:

Gaal and Jeff will set up the table with information about the Tree Board.

7) Current urban forestry news:

David sent an article about the future of the chestnut tree. A third of our trees were chestnuts that have been wiped out by the chestnut blight which is a fungal blight called Cryphonectria parasitica. It produces too much oxalic acid that kills the trees. A first attempt at killing the fungus using DNA from prairie grasses caused stunted growth in the chestnut trees. Continued research may be able to produce a chestnut tree that can fight the fungus when detected.

The master gardener position to take care of the towns shrubs/trees should reach out to businesses for some buy-in.

New Business

Gaal was hoping that if the new position to care for the Town's trees and shrubs is passed, that a concerted effort will be made to engage business owners.

Agenda Items for Next Commission Meeting

None

Next Meeting

March 19, 2024

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by: Leif Smedman Seconded by: Jeff Arnold_____

All in Favor: All_____ Opposed: None_____

Respectfully submitted by: Clare Forseth _____

Signature: 

Date: 2/21/24 _____

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 Cowl Member and Deputy Tree Warden (2/10/25)
- Alan Haehnel Member (2026)
- Jeff Arnold, Tree Warden

