

# HARTFORD TREE BOARD MINUTES

4/16/24 | 5 pm | Meeting called to order by Jeff Arnold

## Commission Members In Attendance

Jeff Arnold, Chair, Gaal Shepherd Crawl, Clare Forseth,

## Commission Members Absent

Alan Haehnel, Leif Smedman, David Barrell

## Others in Attendance

Scott Hausler, Director of Parks and Recreation

## Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Gaal Shepherd Crawl. 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:Faulkner Lane: Abigail Kai from River Valley Property Management: Windsor Village Condo Association at 860 Murphy Road: Arthur Pisty Property: Veterans Park:
- 2) DPW has been doing road work on Faulkner Lane and needs to have a large evergreen tree removed for \$1500. They have dug out around its base making it a hazard. The Property manager of 860 Murphy Road in Quechee asked the Tree Warden to take down some dead trees along the road but they were all outside the 10 ft distance from the edge of the road that the town is responsible for. The new owner of the Arthur Pisty property on the corner of Hartford Avenue and Pierce St. asked to remove a crab apple tree from beside its building which was allowed. Jeff would like to plant two trees

in front of this property along Hartford Avenue. The Tree Board will look at the site and determine the best species selection. Three clumps of box elders at Veterans' park need to be taken down near the new WWI monument because they are leaning over the site.

2) Unsung hero report: Jeff wrote a report for Dan Ramirez to the VT Department of Urban Forestry about the good work he is doing on land at Kilowatt Park that abuts his private property. He is planting native trees/shrubs that will benefit pollinators and other wildlife. He was not among the four people chosen by the Vermont Urban and Community Forest Program (VUCF) this year, but his name and projects will automatically be submitted again next year.

3) Planning for our Arbor Day sale: timing of removal of saplings from the nursery and picking out shrubs from Northern Nurseries then replanting the nursery.

Saturday, May 4th sale from 9 AM to noon.

Friday May 3rd plants need to be picked up at Northern Nurseries by Scott's team.

Scott will call Northern Nurseries to see when TB should choose items.

Clare will advertise on List-serve, sandwich board. Park and Rec will advertise on their site (Jeff will give Margaret the info)

The Tree Board will pull up its potted trees from its nursery Thursday, May 2nd. ( Park and Rec will deliver 2 yds of compost and 2 yds topsoil to nursery and mix them with a loader. Gaal will donate mycorrhiza fungi.

April 22nd or 26th the 29 different types of dogwoods and willows that were donated by Shelburne Farms and picked up by Clare will be re-potted by Tree Board.

4) Who wants to attend the May 23rd VT Urban and Community conference and how to handle payment from our

A town budget line item covers the cost: Definitely Clare, Gaal, Jeff will attend. Need to ask Dave, Leif and Alan.

5) Tree ID preparations at the VA: Dan set up the walk with the Public relations person at VA and the walk is scheduled for May 18th. From 10 am to noon. Pre-walk will occur on Monday 13th. at 10 AM.

6) Tree of the Month report: April Tree of the Month is the newly planted Katsura tree at the Coop on Maple St.

7) Current urban forestry news. Suzanne Simard the forest ecologist at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada and author of the popular book "Finding the Mother Tree" has been facing pushback from other researchers regarding her theory that mature trees through "common mycorrhizal networks" (CMNs) that dispatch resources and send warning signals to related trees. Other researchers say there is "no current evidence from peer-reviewed, published field studies" to prove this. David Johnson, who studies the ecology of soil microbes at the University of Manchester, UK says that it "makes complete sense" that CMNs linking multiple forest trees and substances might travel from one to another through them. Crucially, he says, this is not due to the trees supporting one another. A simple explanation, compatible with evolutionary theory, is that the fungi are acting to protect the trees that are their source of energy.

---

New Business

---

---

Agenda Items for Next Commission Meeting

---

None

---

Next Meeting

---

May 21, 2024

---

*Adjourn*

---

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by: Gaal Crowl    Seconded by: Jeff Arnold\_\_\_\_\_

All in Favor: All\_\_\_\_\_    Opposed:    None\_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted by: Clare Forseth \_\_\_\_\_    Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: 4/17/24\_\_\_\_\_

**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 Crowl Member and Deputy Tree Warden (2/10/25)
- Alan Haehnel Member (2026)
- One position open
- Jeff Arnold, Tree Warden