

Hartford Tree Board Meeting
September 21, 2021
Hartford Town Hall
Room 312, 5:00 pm

Mission: The Tree Board's mission is to plant and maintain public trees and advocate community tree stewardship.

Board Members Present: Leif Smedman, Clare Forseth, Kathy Lamb, Karen Watson, Jeff Arnold, David Barrell

Also attending: Dave Crocco, liaison to Parks and Recreation Committee
Meeting called to order: 5:03 pm

Review and approval of August 17, 2021 Minutes: August minutes were accepted as written.

Business

- Tree Identification walk for Fall, October 16th, 10 to 12 pm, schedule pre walk. Clare will send the list of trees on the River Trail Loop to the board. Discussion on enhancing tree walk information. Possibly attaching names to trees or number trees according to the information page in the booklet made for the walk. Also possibly taking pictures of trees and posting it on a website. Discussion can continue when the group does a pre-walk. Pre-walk October 1st 10:00 AM River Trail Loop. Fat Hat to the parking lot entrance on Main St is 3.7 miles.
- Quechee Rotunda progress, availability of P & R for removal, notice to public prior. Grant opportunity, Growing Urban Forests in the Face of Emerald Ash Borer, possible funds for removal and replacement of Quechee trees? The removal and planting of new trees will be in the spring so the Board can continue to discuss the best approach to inform the public. The grant proposal seemed to refer to replacing ash trees that may be lost to the urban landscape due to the emerald ash borer. It may not apply to the trees on the Quechee green. Maybe we could look into getting reimbursed for the injection of ash trees or ask for money to save other of our ash trees.
- Planting a Sycamore in the Wilder Picnic Area, Dan Ramirez, \$400/Northern Nurseries, P & R offer to pay half of cost, ? who to plant. The Town and Dan will work out the purchase of the tree. Jim LaMontagne will plant the tree for free. Some board members are willing to help with the planting and or documenting of the process. Dan ordered a sycamore tree and it should be planted in the very near future.
- Status of Arbor Day Grant project with Nicole Raney, planting of maple tree (one vs two, Spring 2022 vs Fall 2021) and purchase of equipment. Kathy will continue to work with Nicole in gathering the necessary information to report back to the State.

- Suggestions for Tree of the Month for 2022: Clare will email suggestions to the board and discuss the selections in November.
- Identifying trees on public land that need attention from the Board or citizen volunteers
- Description of Tree Warden responsibilities/Jeff, filling the position, division of tree care within our parks: A motion was made and passed unanimously to accept Jeff's description of a Tree Warden's responsibilities as edited.

A second motion was made and passed unanimously for the tree board to present to the selectboard the need to increase the tree warden budget to \$10,000 for maintaining/replacing and planting of trees and a \$2500 stipend for the tree warden to compensate for his time needed to comply with the new State statutes as written in the job description of the tree warden. It was discussed that Hartford is currently planting numerous trees along Main St. and Sykes Avenue that will need attention in the next few years to be sure they are growing properly. Also mentioned was possibly getting money set aside from the American Cares Act for the tree warden's responsibilities in maintaining Hartford's urban trees.

Clare will set up a meeting with Dan Fraser to discuss the tree warden job description and compensation and the role of the selectboard.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Clare Forseth

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2021.