

Hartford Tree Board Meeting
December 14, 2021
Hartford Town Hall
5:00 pm Room 312

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, Karen Watson, Jeff Arnold, Kathy Lamb

Also attending: Scott Hausler, Director of Parks and Recreation

Meeting called to order: 5:07 p.m.

Review and approval of November 16, 2021, minutes: Minutes approved unanimously.

Business:

- Possible new member for the Tree Board, Meg Riege: Meg Riege indicated she may be interested in applying for the open Tree Board position and Scott sent her information and an application.
- Advertising of the Tree Warden position: The agenda for the 12/14/21 select board meeting indicated that they would bring up the tree warden position description that Jeff wrote and sent to Dan Fraser. Scott reached out to Elise Schadler, Program Manager of the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program at Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation to see if she has any suggestions about advertising for the Tree Warden position. The Board discussed that the most important qualification for the position is that the person has a passion for trees, is a creative thinker and has time to work with Park and Recreation and Public Works on tree issues in Hartford. Scott will follow-up with Tracy Yarlott-Davis about the account for the warden's position and advice on advertising for the position.
- DBS update, Arbor Day Grant: The grant is finished and all paperwork is filed. It was a difficult grant to get over the finish line, but the good thing is

that parents/students/teachers involved in this project now know the Tree Board exists and was actively involved in the process.

- Quechee news report on our Tree ID walk: Karen will share with Jeff and the board the article that Jeff wrote for the Quechee Times about the successful tree ID walk on the River Loop Trail.
- ID trees on public lands: Maxfield, labeling of trees, David's report: This will be discussed at a later meeting. There are some tree ID tags at Park and Rec that we may want to use.
- EAB, ash trees in public ROW, finding of borer in Veteran's Park, further treatment? trees at HHS: (Karen is following up on some ash trees on Rt 5 in Wilder that may have evidence of EAB.) After much discussion, the Board decided to invite knowledgeable people in the area to talk with us about steps needed to be taken considering our finding the EAB in White River Junction. Some names that were mentioned were Bob Littletree (works with VT Forestry Program), Brad Goedkoop (former Tree Warden that wrote the Town's Emergency EAB plan) and present County Foresters. The Southern County Forester Hannah.Dallas@vermont.gov 118 Prospect St Room 10 and/or Orange/Windsor County Forester A.J.Follensbee (Allen.follensbee@vermont.gov). The Board will begin contacting these people to see their availability to meet.
- Quechee Green, tree replacement status: Leif reached out to the Quechee Falls Park committee to see if they can help with funding and/or maintaining the replacement trees. He also sent a write-up to the Quechee Lakes Association and the board informing them of our plan to replace several the trees on the green. Other sources of funding would be the Town budget for trees/maintenance, the Tree Warden's budget, possibly the Chamber of Commerce, and the David Duvall Friends of Quechee Covered Bridge. The Board will continue to reach out to interested groups that may be able to help fund/care for this project.

- 2022, Hartford, The Year of the Tree: Karen reported that the Conservation Commission unanimously endorsed the idea that the Town proclaim 2022 - The Year of the Tree in the Town Report. Besides a proclamation, the board would like to see a collage of pictures that would highlight how the Town is involved in tree recognition. Karen will send an email to Tracy Yarlott-Davis explaining our vision. The board will collect pictures to send to Paula Nulty after contact with Tracy.
- Election of officers for 2022, schedule of meetings for 2022: Jeff Arnold was nominated and unanimously elected to Chair, Karen was nominated and unanimously elected to Vice-Chair, David Barrell was nominated and unanimously elected to treasurer and Clare Forseth was nominated and unanimously elected to secretary. The Board will meet every third Tuesday at 5 pm at Town Hall except in December where they will meet on the 2nd Tuesday at 5 pm at Town Hall.
- Information to include in the Town's annual report: The Board should send items that could be included to Kathy who will write the report after Christmas.
- Tree of the Month, Clare: December Tree of the Month is a paper birch at Veterans' Park, January Tree of the Month is the white fir at White River School and February Tree of the Month is a cottonwood at Veterans' Park.

Meeting Adjourned 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Clare Forseth, Secretary

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2022.