

TOWN of SHELBURNE TREE COMMITTEE
Minutes of May 2, 2023

In Attendance: Gail Henderson-King, Dave Hall, Susan Dunning, Tod Warner, Ann Milovsoroff

Guests: Becca Brittain Taudien, Alice Brown

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM.

2. **Citizen Participation (Opportunity for public comment on any Committee Business that is not included on this agenda)** – Becca Brittain Taudien and Alice Brown expressed their concerns about removal of the mature Ash trees on School Street and the SCS property. Becca said that she had spoken with many other residents of the School Street neighborhood and was acting as their representative. She shared that all the neighbors she spoke with were gravely concerned about losing all of the mature Ash trees along School Street in particular, and the SCS grounds as well. She shared that she had done some research and also had spoken with Greg Renaldo of Teachers Tree Service. According to her research, the cost of removing an Ash tree was approximately the same as inoculating it and wondered why we had not chosen to save these trees instead of removing them. She felt that the mature Ash trees were a valuable resource especially for the children in the area. Gail spent some time explaining our Ash Tree Management Plan that had been approved by the Select Board three years ago. She explained the concept of interplanting, a process that hopes to minimize the impact of tree removal and that this process has already begun in this area. Gail also spoke about the condition of several of the Ash trees in this area is questionable – especially those on the SCS side of School Street. The Tree Committee is working with the school and hoping to get a grant for replanting trees in the SCS parking lot area. Gail explained how the Silva Cell works and why this would be necessary in that spot because of compacting from cars. Other committee members questioned the assumption that the cost of inoculation was about the same as tree removal. When the EAB Management Plan was developed, the common wisdom was that inoculation was recommended for every two years and would be a permanent on-going cost. The cost of inoculation was far greater than removal of a healthy Ash. The Select Board prefers to minimize the number of Ash trees to be inoculated and do more planting / interplanting instead. We informed Becca that we had already started the interplanting process to mitigate the impact of the removal of the mature trees. These Ash trees are not yet scheduled to be cut down. It may be some time before that has to happen and hopefully the interplanted trees will be larger by then. At the end of the day, the Select Board would have to agree to any changes in the course of action already in place. It was noted that the cost of the pesticide has gone down a bit and the recommendation to re-inoculate every three years instead of every two years is still under debate. Becca presented the idea of perhaps inoculating a few of the healthiest trees for the next 10 years or so until

the interplanted trees are larger. Another option discussed was to use more mature trees in the interplanting. Both of these ideas may mitigate the loss of the mature Ash but also would involve additional cost. Becca asked if she could try and raise funds from her concerned neighbors that could be used for either of the options. Members saw no reason to discourage this effort. Becca is also planning on meeting with SCS as she is now aware that the Ash trees on SCS property are not in our jurisdiction as they are on school property.

3. **Growing Urban Forests Grant 2023** – Committee reviewed the four bids we received for the grant. One of the bids was significantly lower, however there are questions that need to be asked to verify certain aspects of the lowest bid. This topic will be reviewed again in the next meeting.
4. **Ash Tree Removal Spring 2023 Work** – No schedule yet and this was moved to next meeting.
5. **Tree City USA Recognition** – Yea! All members are planning to attend the Arbor Day conference on May 19th.
6. **Arbor Day 2023 Celebration** – Our Arbor Day Celebration will occur at Davis Park at 10:00 AM on May 20th. It was decided to plant 6 Swamp Oak at Bay Park, 2 River Birch and 2 Muscledwood near tennis courts at Davis Park, 2 Yellow Magnolia next to bus stop and 4 Swamp Oak near the Korean Maple on Falls Road, and 3 River Birch on Harbor Rd/Sewer Plant. Dave will stake out the optimum spots with whoever can join him over the weekend and Gail asked if we could get some or all of the holes dug beforehand by the Town. Dave was not sure if this could be done. Gail will post on FPF and Shelburne News about the Arbor Day Event. She also offered to bring the Tree City USA flag to fly at the event.
7. **Review Tree Committee Charter and bylaws** – This was moved to the next meeting.
8. **Public Education and Outreach / Fundraising** – This was moved to the next meeting.
9. **Tree Warden Report** – Dave spoke about his meeting with the new Planning Director about a proposed plan for a bandstand and improvements for the Parade Ground for an AARP grant application. This plan shows a new sidewalk on Parade Ground and he is concerned about the negative impact on the Maple trees there. He noted that construction crews are not usually the best for caring for such potential impact on trees. Dave also mentioned that he had a recent experience with a Mature Ash that was inoculated, but then had to be cut down and was wondering if the Ash wood is toxic from the pesticide.

10. **Other Business** – none

11. April 2023 Accomplishments – The request for bids for the Growing Urban Forests grant was sent out.

12. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tod Warner.

Approved by Shelburne Tree Committee on _____

DRAFT