

TOWN of SHELBURNE TREE COMMITTEE
Minutes of June 6, 2023

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

Guests: Matt Lawless – new Town Manager, Aaron DeNamur – Director of Planning and Zoning, Barb Johns – Bike and Pedestrian Paths Committee

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM.

2. **Citizen Participation (Opportunity for public comment on any Committee Business that is not included on this agenda)** – Barb Johnson of the Bike and Pedestrian Paths Committee came to the meeting to encourage our committees to working jointly when issues arise that may overlap each Committee’s focus. She mentioned the recent discussion in their last Committee meeting concerning the new Bus Route Plan where a new bus stop may involve tree planting and the Route 7/Harbor Road/Falls Road intersection improvements being contemplated by VTrans. Committee members all agreed that this was a good idea.

Also joining the meeting was Aaron DeNamur, Director of Planning and Zoning, and our new Town Manager Matt Lawless. Aaron presented the proposed site plan for the Parade Ground project which includes a sidewalk along Church Street, a new structure for performances, benches, and plantings for encouraging uses outside of the farmers market and Christmas tree sale. He went over some of the adjustments in the design including the removal of the meandering sidewalk through the center of the space. Aaron also thought that the dedication memorial might be better served if moved to a different spot. Gail reviewed the history of the work we have done to preserve the health of the existing trees and mitigate the impact of the Farmers Market on the Parade Ground over the past 7 years. Dave reviewed the work done on the northern boundary and noted that several of the mature Ash trees are ones we have invested in inoculation for EAB. Dave also noted that the sidewalk proposed would probably need to be a three season walkway, because that particular spot is piled high with snow in the winter months when clearing the parking spaces for the church. Gail also discussed how root pruning probably would be needed for the Maple trees if the sidewalk is constructed. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of moving the dedication Memorial to different spots on the Parade Ground. Susan thought it might be better served at the corner facing Route 7. It was noted that the site plan was missing at least one Memorial tree and Tree committee members questioned the accuracy of the site plan and specifically the tree locations. We felt that it would be premature to make comments on the tree impacts of the work without an accurate site plan to review. It was also noted that the project would need to have an arborist oversee the work and would need an accurate site plan.

3. **Ash Tree Removal Spring 2023 Work** – This work has been completed including stump grinding and everything went well. The island looks a little bare but some think it already looks better. Dave says we have now completed removal of Ash trees within the road rights-of-way as follows: approximately 97% of Spear Street, Harbor Road, and Bay Road up to Turtle Lane. Turtle Lane to Route 7 still needs to be done. There was one issue with a landowner who felt that one of the mature Ash trees that was taken down was on his property. Dave felt quite certain that this was not the case but intends to go back and measure again to be sure. The question came up about what happened to the wood from the Ash tree removal. Previously, the wood/chips were offered to residents but otherwise, it is chipped and/or sent to the MacNeil wood chip plant in Burlington and this is handled by the company doing the tree work.
4. **Growing Urban Forests Grant 2023** – All companies were contacted and most submitted revised bids. The two lowest bids were reviewed and discussed. It was unanimously decided that one bid was better, primarily because the tree dimensions were larger and the closest to our original proposal. Gail will follow up with the bidder.
5. **Tree City USA Recognition** – Three Committee members were able to attend the Arbor Day conference in Randolph. Shelburne was recognized with its 6th year of Tree City USA designation and Gail accepted for the group.
6. **Arbor Day 2023 Celebration** – Members met on May 9th and planted 5 trees at Davis Park for our Arbor Day celebration. We went over to the Little League fields at the Town Offices and handed out 20 bare root Red Maple trees and instructions on how to plant them.
7. **Review Tree Committee Charter and bylaws** – This was moved to the next meeting.
8. **Public Education and Outreach / Fundraising** – Good news is that Gail now has a good contact at the Shelburne News for future publicity.
9. **Tree Warden Report** – Dave mentioned getting some clarification on Right Of Way to resolve any future residential concerns.
10. **Other Business** – Susan mentioned that we need to update both tree inventories on the iPads and update with new Urban Tree update. Gail will reach out to Joanne at Urban and Community Forestry to see if she can come to one of our meetings this summer and help us update the iPads.

Members discussed Becca's email about inoculating some of the trees on School Street. No conclusion was reached on this.

11. May 2023 Accomplishments – Arbor Day Celebration, Ash Tree removal phase 3, planted 5 trees for Arbor Day.

12. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tod Warner.

Approved by Shelburne Tree Committee on _____

DRAFT