

TOWN of SHELBURNE TREE COMMITTEE
Minutes of October 3, 2023

Members Present: Gail Henderson-King, Tom Warner, David Hall, Susan Dunning

Staff: Kit Luster

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:08.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion by Tom and a second by Susan, the minutes of the September 12th meeting are approved unanimously.
3. **Tree Inventory Program Training Follow Up:** It was decided that Gail would split up the iPads so everyone can download the programs to use the GIS programs Joanne Garton showed at the September 12th meeting. Susan mentioned that before the committee does any inventorying, they need to figure out what they want to do and what they are looking for. Susan said she thought that good places to start would be Bay Park/Town Parks and starting smaller.

David said that the Ash Trees in the Ash Tree Inventory were not on the regular tree inventory created by Pam Brangan. Susan said that the two inventories do not mesh so they should stay separate since the ash trees are being cut down anyways. She wondered if the committee should start fresh rather than data we already have. David said that the committee should use the data they already have to see what has changed and allows the committee to see what is being done with the money. He thought that the Parade Ground and Village Green are the most relevant to get data on. Gail said that the focus should be on the village and the beach.

4. **Town FY2024 Budget:** David mentioned that Betsy Cieplicki from Parks and Rec does not have a line item in their budget for tree maintenance. There was discussion on where the money should come from for the Tree Committee budget and it was noted that there is money in the Highway Department Budget and that 6,000 dollars felt reasonable. David felt like the committee should suggest 8,000 dollars since costs are increasing. Gail asked David if he could ask Paul Goodrich of the Highway Department what the money is being used for and how much is left. Gail said that communication between the committee and the Highway Department should be stronger to tell them where trees need to be cut down. The board decided that the Tree Conservation line item should be moved into the Annual Maintenance category.

Susan mentioned that annual maintenance should consist of pruning, watering, fertilization, aeration, and planting. David suggested that the Farmers Market should pay the Town for

the use of the Parade Ground so that it can be properly maintained. The committee decided to change the order of the budget to Tree Conservation, Emerald Ash Borer, Annual Maintenance, Education. Gail said that she will update the draft budget and resend to the committee members.

5. **GROWING URBAN FORESTS GRANT 2023:** Susan told the group that 6 containers to close out the grant will cost around \$300. Gail and Susan will work on the Tree Committee article for the Shelburne News, and David will get the Tax ID number from Peter Frankenburg so that they can purchase the containers for the Town, which is tax exempt.
6. **GRANT OVERVIEW 2024:** Kit Luster gave a brief description of the available grants from the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program available for 2024. Susan suggested focusing plantings on the Harbor Road/Route 7/Falls Road intersection while VTrans is working on the area. Gail agreed it would be good to get involved with that and work with the Bikes, Pedestrian, and Paths Committee. Susan also mentioned that the committee has opportunity for some stormwater management in that area based on the plantings.

David asked if any of the grants could be used to maintain the Ti Hall Path. It was decided that trail is less relevant to the Tree Committee. It should be under the supervision of the Conservation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Department since some of the trail is wetlands and trees cannot be removed from wetlands.

Gail brought up that a grant could be used for the Bay Road area as a traffic calming effort. The committee also discussed a grant opportunity for aeration of the Parade Ground, which has been done before but only to 6 trees, or to remove double the ash trees that they were going to be removing by using the budgeting ash tree removal money as the required 1:1 match.

7. **TREE WARDEN REPORT:** David reported that School St and Davis Ave own trees that were planted on their property and have offered the planted trees if the Town would like to relocate them. South 40 Nursery is also clearing trees and have trees if the committee can relocate and replant them somewhere else. There are maple and oak trees that look nice as well as a larger oak. The Town lost a maple tree at the beach and this could be a good replacement for that.
8. **OTHER BUSINESS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS**
No update on School St group regarding their fundraising effort for Ash tree inoculation. A September accomplishment was the inventory training that took place at the last meeting.

9. Adjourned 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kit Luster

Minutes approved on: November 3, 2023