

**TOWN of SHELBURNE TREE COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of November 2, 2021**

In attendance: Gail Henderson-King, David Hall, Tod Warner, Ann Milovsoroff, Kelly Moreton

1. **Call to Order** - Meeting called to order at 7:21 PM.
2. **Consider approval of minutes from September 8 and October 13 meetings** - Both meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Citizen Participation (Opportunity for public comment on any Committee Business that is not included on this agenda)** – none.
4. **Tree Work Bid** – Both Bur Oaks were planted on School Street and Kelly has a photo which she will share by email. Our grant close-out paperwork for this project will be submitted by Gail and the balance will be funded by our Tree Conservation line item. Gail will submit our Arbor Day Proclamation for the Tree City USA application requirement to the Select Board for their next meeting. This needs to be read aloud to be entered into the minutes.

Committee members then discussed the next project for bid – starting pre-emptive removal of Ash Trees. The topic of giving residents in the areas of removal advance notice and the question of allowing them to petition for the opportunity to inoculate any specimen Ash on town property scheduled for removal came up. Dave had discussed this with the Charlotte Tree Warden deputy at a recent Tree Warden meeting. Charlotte had offered this option and no residents chose this option. Dave did mention that residents may want to schedule their own Ash removal from the same company doing the work because the equipment was already “on site.” A question came up if this would be seen as advertising and not appropriate. This will be looked into before sending out the request for bids. Dave mentioned that we should avoid removing Ash trees that are within the power company rights-of-way as they might also be considering removing them. He also mentioned that tree removal companies are very busy right now and may not have time for extra work. He also noted that we should be concerned about safety and liability issues with tree branches falling. The first area that for tree removal will be in the SE quadrant as this is closest to the confirmed EAB infestation with the Town. Dave wants to revisit the SE quadrant and check ROW Ash locations to determine the most efficient way to do this work. He also mentioned that the days are getting shorter and may have a tough time getting this task done before darkness sets in. A draft of this request for bids will be prepared by Gail and Dave and reviewed with the Town manager.

5. **Proposed Budget for FY 2023(Begins July 1, 2022)** – Basically we will be submitting the same budget as last year. EAB tree management is now a separate line item in the Town budget. Members again discussed having a stipend for the Town Tree Warden. Dave did not participate in this part of the discussion. Because our EAB tree management implementation calls for a slightly smaller dollar figure than last year, it was agreed to propose a stipend for the tree warden position and be able to level fund the budget. Members agreed to include this in our proposal. Gail asked that committee members email her reasons for this stipend and Kelly thinks that we should list everything that the Tree Warden does for the Town as evidence/justification for the stipend.
6. **Shade Tree Management Plan** – The committee reviewed Elise Schadler’s comments on the latest draft and we launched into a discussion of Right-of-Way vs Town Right-of-Way vs Public Right-of-Way vs Public Way. It was decided to use Public Way to conform with the language in the Tree Warden Statute and add a definition in to state a Public Way and Public Right-of-Way are interchangeable in the document. Members discussed all of our accomplishments for the past several years as this is part of the Plan document.
7. **Public Education and Outreach / Fundraising** – Kelly has some articles/information ready to “publish.” She mentioned that she learned that bark “splitting” on the outside of a Maple tree does not necessarily mean the tree is in trouble. Trees can survive this type of damage and will form a protective layer, similar to scar tissue, underneath the split.
8. **Tree Warden Report** – The Tree Warden meeting was already discussed. He reported that the memorial stone marker was put in place at the recent memorial tree installed at the beach. He also mentioned that some have commented on the beautiful colors of the 5 Korean Maple trees we relocated on Falls Rd.
9. **Other Business** – none.
10. **Oct 2021 Accomplishments** – Burr Oaks planted. Memorial tree at the beach with stone marker placed.
11. **Meeting Adjourned** – Meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Tod Warner, Secretary.

Approved by Shelburne Tree Committee on \_\_\_\_\_