

Tree Board Meeting

Hartford Municipal Building

July 17, 2018 Minutes

Mission: To plant and maintain public trees and advocate community tree stewardship

Board Members: Carole Haehnel, Deborah Milne, Tim Covell, Clare Forseth, Karen Watson

Others: Brad Goedkoop, Tree Warden, Scott Hausler, Director Parks & Recreation, Kevin Stuart, Liaison Parks & Recreation

Call to order: 6:10 pm

Education/Current Trends: Carole mentioned the beautiful sycamore trees in So. Bend Indiana on a recent trip and how they enhanced the area. <sup>Deborah</sup> Clare will ask the Conservation Commission if we make copies of the recent pamphlet on the EAB, Asian Long Horned Beetle, and the Woolly Adelgid.

Old Business:

- Clare is waiting for a response from the Planning Commission's review of the Tree Board's Landscaping Guidelines
- Follow up Re - Tree Board concerns about the possible removal of three crabapple trees on Horseshoe Road, and the boxelder that was taken down at Mascoma Bank: Rules are set forth in the VT Tree Warden Statute and the Hartford Tree Policy determine town involvement. A town can act when it has right-of-way, but generally it cannot interfere with trees that are on private property. 1. Horseshoe Road: After the owner submits his application to the Planning Board, then the Board can submit its response to the proposal. Clare will alert us when this happens. 2. Mascoma Bank: Karen spoke to the branch manager at Mascoma who said a replacement tree is planned, but not yet budgeted and she wrote to their facilities/landscaping head to thank Mascoma for its ongoing attention to landscaping, and to mention the hardwoods the Tree Board routinely recommends.
- Brad is reviewing ways to protect tree trunks from damage caused by power equipment, and improper mulching around the trunks, and he will keep the Board advised of recommendations. He is looking into a grant possibility. He also said that not every tree will die from interior rot caused by mulch piled high around a tree base (as is the practice of many landscaping companies), and noted that some trees are less sensitive than others.
- Several TB members reported that the Town Nursery is "looking good." We need to identify each planting so Brad can add them to the town tree inventory. The hose that runs from the town shed to the nursery has sprung several leaks due to vehicles driving over it. Tim is going to find a replacement hose and a hose guard for the Board to donate to the town.
- It was agreed that we will continue to draft tree maps to hand out with the tree walk booklets.
- The 3 elm trees behind the Municipal Building will all be removed by this fall, and replacements will be put in after that. The Board would like to plant these replacements as a tribute to Leo

Pullar for his service to the town, and to include a plaque inside the town hall. Brad will contact Leo to see if he has any preferences.

- Scott and Clare are meeting with a young man who is looking for an Eagle Scout project. He may be interested in our tree ID project.
- Brad continues pursuing possible grant ideas; (subsequent to this meeting, he learned that VT has stopped grants for tree canopies.) Another possibility: protect tree trunks from summer cutting including training for parks maintenance people.

#### New Business:

- Karen brought in a picture of vehicles with trailers who park on the grass near the old dock at Kilowatt North and finds it is unsightly and causing soil compaction. Brad is also concerned about cars that park under the pine trees on the east side of the parking lot. The Board encourages Scott to investigate these parking practices, and to look into whether too many unauthorized people have keys to get past the chains in our parks. Should vehicles stay off the grassy areas and only park on designated roads? Do new locks need to be issued to reduce the people who can access the grassy areas? It was also suggested that a sign may be needed in areas next to the parking lot: *"Please don't park under trees. Root compaction is harmful to the trees."*

**NOTE: Several people are unable to attend the August 21 meeting. Accordingly, THE NEXT TREE BOARD MEETING IS POSTPONED TO AUGUST 28TH.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Signed By: Karen Walm Dated: August 28, 2018