

Longmeadow Tree Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 27, 2018 at 6 p.m.

DPW office, 31 Pondsides Road

The Tree Committee meeting was opened at 6:05 pm. The following members were present: Chair David Marinelli, Steve Steiner, Tree Warden Jason Scott, Northern Tree Arborist Don Pease
Absent were: Wayne Ottani, Mark Tolosky and Bari Jarvis.

Public comments and discussion: None

Tree Warden Report: Tree Warden will be working on a tree report for Tree Committee. Report will be up to date listing of trees removed, needing removal and/or work being conducted and that needs to be conducted on trees. Sidewalk replacement has resulted in some street trees removed out of safety concern. Removal showed some trees were damaged even though they appeared healthy.

Discussion about possibility of hiring an Arborist for town either full-time or part-time. Costs would have to be absorbed by town so Select Board and Town Manager would have to make decision.

Old Business: Plan for tree planting on Longmeadow Street - ongoing planning, with a possible 12/31/18 deadline for plantings.

Library talk on 09/12/2018 conducted at Storrs Library by Dave Marinelli, "Longmeadow Trees, Past, Present, and Future". Talk was well received and resulted in some inquiries into planting trees on tree belts in front of residents' homes.

New Business: Don Pease provided input as to appropriate species which could be considered for Longmeadow Street Tree Planting Grant – monoculture should be avoided. Idea to have residents assist with care of trees after planting. Don Pease also suggested that Tree Committee look at insects, diseases as well as pruning needs in future when determining which tree species to plant.

Don Pease also provided information on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Dave Marinelli advised that there were some 100 Ash Trees on public ways in Longmeadow. Treatment and removal were discussed as options for Ash Trees. Both will cost money, but this is unavoidable, as the Ash trees will all die within the next few years if not treated. Dave Marinelli proposed plan be developed to deal with EAB sooner rather than later so that the best Ash Trees could be saved with treatment.

Don Pease advised that thought should be given to site location and tree contribution of tree prior to planting. Some tree plantings have resulted in too high tree density for location.

Don Pease advised regarding Elm Trees. Talked about treatment for Dutch Elm Disease (DED) and best practices for care of trees w/DED.

Don Pease mentioned that trees in Longmeadow are getting older and could be more prone to age related problems. Recommended a simple risk assessment be conducted every year consisting of visual inspection of tree canopy to use as determination of tree health. Tree Warden advised that this could take two weeks or more to complete.

The purpose of the Tree Committee is to promote a healthy and sustainable community forest by planting and maintaining quality trees and providing education and advocacy to the public on the benefits of trees.

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Announcements: DCR Tree Steward Training is in Harvard Forest, Petersham on October 12-13, 2018

The minutes of the current meeting were reviewed, corrected as needed, and approved unanimously.

Set next meeting date: 10/25/18

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Patrick Carnahan, Recorder

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