

Longmeadow Tree Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday February 18, 2021

Remote Meeting

The Tree Committee meeting was held remotely via Zoom. The meeting opened at 6:00 PM. The following members were present: David Marinelli, Steve Steiner, Kathy Kucab, Mark Tolosky, and Patrick Carnahan. Also present was Longmeadow resident Lou Kornet.

The meeting was opened by following the approved script for conducting remote meetings which included a review of Open Meeting Law.

Public comments-None

Corrected and approved January minutes - unanimous

Tree Warden Report and Old Business: Regarding the Route 5 to Converse Street street/sidewalk revision, the public comment period has lapsed. Several comments have been submitted in favor of a comprehensive inventory of the affected trees with a construction damage mitigation plan. The Tree Warden will be involved with the project.

The 2021 Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Urban and Community Forestry grants have not been awarded yet.

Arbor Day planning is progressing. Pre-bagged Fraser Firs have been ordered and will be distributed to all fourth grade students at the three public schools and three private schools in town. Longmeadow Gardeners Club and Gardeners on the Green will assist with the programs. There will also be a tree planting at Wolf Swamp School (WSS). Dave and the Tree Warden are working the WSS Principal, Marie Pratt, regarding the tree species and location for the planting.

Long Meddowe Days has been cancelled this year. Tree that are normally given out during Long Meddowe Days have already been purchased. The thought is to hold a drive-through tree distribution similar to last year. Details to follow.

Spring planting-The town has received \$10,000 for spring tree planting from the 2020 DCR grant. At \$250 per tree (including installation) that comes to 40 trees to be planted this spring.

The 2020 annual windshield survey has not been completed due to covid. Dave would like to see this done every year in keeping with urban shade tree best practices.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) treatment-no word yet on whether the Ash trees in town that had been treated two years ago for EAB will be treated again. Most of those trees previously treated are doing well.

New Business: Possible Earth Day event. Dave mentioned that Andrea Chasen of the Conservation Commission has requested citizen participation in Earth Day events in Longmeadow. The events would focus on the removal of trash from Longmeadow's parks and open space lands. Dave discussed the idea of having Tree Committee sponsor a project to remove invasive weeds along Ardsley Road. Dave has already picked out an area and has received property owner's permission to enter their property to remove invasive plants. Kathy Kucab agreed to represent the Tree Committee on the Earth Day Steering Committee along with Dave.

Follow-up on previous discussion of placing a plaque/information sign near an American Chestnut tree in Bliss Park. Dave advised that the idea was being worked through the Director of Park and Recreation and the various stake holders regarding this idea. All parties are supportive but details are being worked out. More to follow when details are known.

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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Lou Kornet is attempting to contact other Longmeadow residents who had previously volunteered with him on the Forest Park Arboretum initiative, in order to gauge their interest in volunteering for a tree related project in Longmeadow.

Next meeting date: The next meeting of the Tree Committee will be March 18, 2021, at 6:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Patrick Carnahan, Recorder

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