

Longmeadow Tree Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday March 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, Bari Jarvis, 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 meeting which included a review of Open Meeting Law.

Public comments-None

Corrected and approved February minutes

Tree Warden Report and Old Business: No further updates regarding the Route 5 to Converse Street street/sidewalk revision.

There is still no word on the status of the 2021 Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) grant.

Arbor Day planning is progressing. Arbor Day will be celebrated the last Friday of April (April 30th). The Longmeadow Covid Coordinator, Andrew Fraser, advised that all tree ceremonies being discussed could proceed. The current plan calls for the purchase and distribution of pre-bagged Fraser Firs which will be distributed to all fourth grade students at the three public schools and three private schools in town. Also assisting is the Longmeadow Gardener’s Club and Gardeners on the Green. 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. Trees that are normally given out during Long Meddowe Days have already been purchased. There will either be a booth set-up on Longmeadow Green for tree sapling distribution or a drive-through tree distribution similar to last year. Details to follow.

Spring planting-The town has \$10,000 for spring tree planting. At \$250 per tree (including installation) that comes to 40 trees to be planted this spring. Bare root trees will be planted. Requested tree plantings have exceeded supply. Those requests not fulfilled this spring will be placed on a possible fall planting list.

The 2020 annual windshield survey remains on hold.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) treatment-no word yet on if the Ash trees in town that had been treated two years ago for EAB will be treated again or not. Most of those trees previously treated are doing very well.

Earth Day – Tree Committee participation will be facilitated by Kathy Kucab. Dave is planning on having some folks perform invasive plant removal. Other members will be working with other groups in town for trash removal.

New Business: The State Forester measured a Halesia tree, also known as a Silverbell Tree, and believed that it could be a Massachusetts Champion Tree based upon spread and height.

There are numerous trees being planted at the new Senior Center. There was concern that the burlap and metal baskets were not being removed prior to plating. Without removal, the survival of the tree comes into question. Dave has reached out to the Chair of the Building Committee, Mary-Beth Bergeron who will follow up on Dave’s concerns.

Next meeting date: The next meeting of the Tree Committee will be April 22, 2021, at 6:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Patrick Carnahan, Recorder

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.