

Longmeadow Tree Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday June 24, 2021
Remote Meeting

The Tree Committee meeting was held remotely via Zoom. The meeting opened at 6:05 PM. The following members were present: Dave 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: Lou Kornet requested a report from Dave regarding his work with Bill Seefeld at the American Chestnut Foundation plantation in Granville, Massachusetts and their work on inoculations of chestnuts against the Chestnut Blight. Dave provided the report and describing the process of chestnut inoculations.

Tree Warden Report and Old Business: Tree Warden and Deputy Tree Warden have both submitted their resignation. We have no information about the timeline for recruiting replacements.

Tree Committee will forward a brief article regarding the Tree Warden duties and qualifications to the Town Manager and Select Board in the spirit of informing/awareness regarding the position of Tree Warden.

Dave mentioned that an outside review of DPW operations has commenced. Since the Tree Warden position is part of the DPW, the Tree Committee would like to provide input to the study.

No further updates regarding the Route 5 to Converse Street/sidewalk revision.

The Committee continues to advocate for an annual windshield survey of all public shade trees.

New Business: Fall plantings are being planned and residents have been submitting requests.

A street tree was struck and destroyed on Williams Street. Discussion followed on town policy regarding seeking compensation from auto insurance regarding replanting a new tree to replace the destroyed tree. Committee unsure of how town covers these matters. Committee member will follow up with town and report back.

Town Manager and the Select Board have recently discussed the benefits of Town committees changing chairs on a regular basis. Dave is willing to step down for the next fiscal year and any member willing to be chair is urged to step forward. This will be addressed at the July meeting.

Discussion on municipal vulnerability grant recently awarded to Holyoke which allowed them to begin a tree inventory. Longmeadow has applied for MVP grants past but was not awarded funding. The possibility of reapplying in the future remains.

Minutes read, corrected as needed and approved unanimously.

Next meeting date – The next meeting to the Tree Committee will on July 29th at 6:00 pm. The Committee prefers to meet virtually while allowed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

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.