

# WEST NEWBURY TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date and Place: 6:30 pm, Thursday, Oct 17, 2019, GAR Memorial Library. Members present: Fred Chanania, Barbara Haack, Molly Hawkins, Jane Martin, Claudia Wood, Francesca Pomerantz, Kathy Mandeville. Absent: Wayne Amaral

AGENDA ITEM	OUTCOME
1. Approval of 9/25 minutes	<i>Minutes approved upon seconded motion by unanimous vote 5-0-0</i>
2. Update on DCR grant	Mr. Chanania updated the committee on DCR grant proposal – on the advice of the grant coordinator the proposal is requesting matching funds for education and equipment and not events such as a Tree Day on public property. In January, the committee should present budget to the Finance Committee in preparation for requesting a line item from town for FY21 at the spring town meeting. With reimbursement from grant, members should plan on Mass Tree Stewardship training in October 2020. Letters of support from Open Space Committee and Conservation Commission needed for grant application by Oct 28, electronically and hard copies. <i>Upon seconded motion, the Committee voted 5-0-0 to approve.</i>
3. Update on creating list of certified arborists	By providing a link to the Massachusetts Arborists Association, the training and certifying body, the committee would not be endorsing specific arborists or companies. Mandeville, having worked with state and city government, recommended against naming specific businesses on the website, but was less hesitant to mention businesses that have donated services or other tangible items to augment the committee's work. <i>Members will compile websites or organizations or newsletters to publish on the website and circulate before the meeting so that the list can vet them before the next meeting. Send to Mandeville by Nov 14<sup>th</sup>.</i>
4. Future training for Comm. within possible grant funding	<i>Wood will research options for training opportunities.</i>
5. Gift fund	Mandeville informed the Garden Club of the gift fund of the Committee, which does have conservation as part of its mission. She will recuse herself should the club decide to vote on a donation.
6. Possible designation of West Newbury as a "Tree City"	Designation as a Tree City requirements seem attainable. Various requirements include: a town Tree Committee and corresponding budget, Arbor Day observance, tree-related bylaws. It is unclear as to whether the charge from the Selectmen was enough to be considered a bylaw. <i>Tree City USA qualifications will be looked at again by Wood.</i>

7. List of volunteers	Martin will follow up with people who show interest and give them more information. Discussion followed about how and when to involve volunteers and when the committee will be prepared to provide educational opportunities to residents.
8. Planning for Tree Day	Scheduling – last Friday in April 2020 is Arbor day. One suggestion is to provide a program in Library on Friday night (Arbor Day) and to have the tree giveaway the next day. Other dates seem more problematic.
9. Consider these additions to the Website: Search engine: ecosia.org International Society of Arboriculture	<p>Ecosia has a somewhat less powerful algorithm than one like Google. Is there a way to direct website users to links such as this without endorsing private or commercial interests? <i>Mandeville will compile suggestions of websites and newsletters from committee members. Chania will follow up with Amaral to get a Tree Warden FAQ list for quick reference for residents.</i></p> <p>Discussion of setting long range goals and initial objectives, and this discussion will be continued at next month's meeting. Committee will explore education and resources that will support an action plan and five-year strategic plan.</p>
10. Action items and next meeting date	<p>Discussion next meeting on Tree Day scheduling for April 28-29. Identify short- and long-term goals for committee.</p> <p>Mandeville will coordinate website links sent to her, book titles, etc. to use as reference for residents and users of the website.</p> <p>Chania will gather Tree Warden FAQs from Wayne Amaral and ISA training in grant proposal, ask about establishing a library shelf for tree reference materials, and ask Angus Jennings for specifics about processing donations to the Tree Committee Gift Fund. Also will forward to Mandeville a list of video or other resources for the committee's education.</p> <p>Pomerantz will research tree loss mitigation efforts and policies by the Newburyport Tree Committee.</p> <p>Wood will research future training and Tree City designation.</p> <p>Martin to pursue Open Space letter of support by Oct 28</p> <p>Hawkins to pursue ConCom letter of support by Oct 28</p>
11. Adjournment	7:55 pm

The next meeting will be Thursday Nov 21st, at 6:30 pm at the GAR Memorial Library.