



West Newbury Tree Committee

Minutes of Meeting of West Newbury Tree Committee

Location: 47 Coffin Street

Thursday, June 16,, 2023, 5:30 PM

Present: Fred Chanania, Molly Hawkins, Claudia Woods, Susan Dougherty, Kelly Scott, Diana Denning, Elisa Grammer, Carol Decker.

Convened Meeting at 5:30	
1. May Meeting Minutes	Upon motion made and seconded, approved unanimously.
2. Tree City USA	Fred attended the training sessions and ceremony and received the award materials for Tree City 2022.
3. Library Program on Big Trees	The program about Big Trees of Northern New England (Kevin Martin) has been scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 23 from 10 AM-noon. The presentation will be followed up with a local tree walk by the West Newbury Tree Committee. Details yet to be determined.
4. Repurposing Tree Trunks	Based on the log pile programs being created under the auspices of the Mass DCR, Fred detailed some preliminary thoughts about developing a town program for repurposing some tree trunks after the trees have been cut down. Many logistical issues remain to be explored with the town DPW, tree companies, and the community. There was agreement among TC members that this type of program might be a good one to pursue for the TC and that landowners would want information about their options once their trees have been taken down. Fred will follow up with the Mass DCR wood utilization program director. Other issues to be investigated are a location for the log pile (current pile of logs is located at the recycling center) and potential grants for the town to purchase a log skidder.
5. Training Opportunities	Fred continues to provide information on training opportunities, including the annual Tree Stewardship program that is sponsored by Mass DCR.
6. Publicity for Ash Tree Injections	Claudia has posted on social media a mention about the upcoming injection program for 177 ash trees. Fred reported on progress of the bid process which should conclude this week. Injections are intended start the following week.
7. Other Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department Of Public Utilities will be potentially performing aerial surveys of trees that are infringing on power lines. Should this take place, these surveys could be requested for use by individual municipalities. - Managing Woodlots and Forests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o State Forester consultation for homeowners - usually based around creation of a forest management plan under Ch. 61 B in consultation with the State forester. 10 acre minimum is required.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fred to contact DCR to see if DCR and State Forester for our area wish to put on a program for WN residents detailing forest management opportunities and options. ○ Under 61B, the forest management plan need not involve active management and timbering and can be based on providing wildlife habitat. This might be a good fit for landowners who take a passive approach to their land. https://masswoods.org/sites/masswoods.net/files/pdf-doc-ppt/ch61b.pdf - Potential addition to the Significant and Remarkable Roster for an as tree on Middle Street (Holmeth property). Fred to arrange for a visit to measure the tree. - Fred met with Sam Joslin, Housing inspector, regarding the TC guidance on protection of trees during construction. The planning board previously agreed with the guidance. Fred asked Sam to disseminate the information. Sam also agreed that including tree considerations early in the project planning phase would likely be a more effective approach.
8. Next Meeting	No meeting in July. Next meeting will be Thursday, August 17th, remote on Zoom, 5:30 pm
9. Meeting Adjourned	Adjourned at 6:18 Note: following TC adjournment, general discussions continued about common ideas with the Climate Resiliency (Grammer) and Open Space and Wild and Native Committees (Decker).