



West Newbury Tree Committee

Meeting Minutes of West Newbury Tree Committee

Location: Remote via Zoom
Thursday, October 19, 2023, 5:30 PM

Members Present: Fred Chanania, Molly Hawkins, Diana Denning, Kelly Scott, Richard Hills

1. Meeting Convened	Meeting started at 5:30 pm
2. September Minutes	Motioned made and voted to accept as written
3. Evaluation of the Tree Committee Tree ID walk and Kevin Martin's Presentation on 9/23	Diana reported it was well attended. Molly reported that Martin was a great speaker. Following talk, Martin and TC led tree walk and Martin showed participants how to measure a large tree. Then about 10 people traveled to see the Balsam Poplar on Main Street, which is one of the two state champions in West Newbury. People seemed excited to have a "New England Scavenger Hunt" and Martin sold many books as well.
4. Richard (Butch) Hills new Tree Warden	Welcome to the Tree Committee as member ex officio. It is not expected that Butch will need to attend every TC meeting but is welcome to do so.
5. Ash Tree survey update	<p>Bartlett Tree Experts completed the follow up survey on ash tree injection results for 177 trees from original study (good and fair categories), which were injected with pesticide in late June. The follow up survey in late September revealed that 89 of 177 survived, 88 did not and are dying. Future discussion with Select Board will center on what actions to take next, especially related to funding and spring town meeting.</p> <p>Butch will create a plan regarding dead trees along the roadways that need to be removed as suggested by Town Manager. This will be done by January 2024 or later. The Tree Committee will consult with Butch.</p> <p>As for other ash trees on public property in West Newbury, this is beyond the scope of Bartlett's Survey and discussion related to handling trees on a case-by-case basis.</p>

	Fred will talk to Angus about letting the public know about the follow up survey results. Fred has already uploaded the follow up survey onto the TC website.
6. Training Opportunities	Reminders about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCR Tree Stewardship training offered on Oct. 27 (Newton): 8:30-4:30 PM; Diana will be attending. • Annual Town Forest Conference in Ashland, Saturday, October 21 (Molly and Fred plan to go)
7. National Grid and Town DPW	In response to question about town coordination with National Grid about cutting down dead trees, Butch stated that he is working with the National Grid and their arborist to keep the lines safe and remove trees. It was suggested that we can encourage them to not take down healthy trees, as they remove the dead ones that are problematic. This is going to happen soon at 199 and 290 Middle Street.
8. Other Items	Fred listed future items that the TC will be addressing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report for the Tree Committee covering 7/1/22 – 6/30/2023 is due to the Town Clerk by January. Fred will send out a draft to committee members and would like to finish this report at our next meeting. • TC budget request for FY 2025, which will be added to the DPW budget request - probably at same level as last year's TC budget. • Tree City recertification due by 12/31/2023 - Fred to draft application
9. Tree ordering	Diana suggested creating an order for trees that would be open to West Newbury residents. The order would be placed with Chestnut Ridge Nursery for spring 2024. A signup sheet is to be provided at town forum on 11/9 and 11/15. Logistics to be worked out in the future.
10. Fred's Course at HU	The lectures in his course on New England forests are recorded and available on Zoom – let Fred know if you are interested in getting the links.
11. Next Meeting	Next meeting is Thursday November 17 th 5:30 remote on Zoom No TC meeting in December
12. Adjournment	Meeting Adjourned at 6:03 pm