

MINUTES: ROCKINGHAM TREE COMMITTEE

DATE: October 17, 2016

Present: Ellen Howard, Cass Wright, Alma Beals, Betsy Braden, Chip Stearns, Polly Thompson

The meeting convened at 4:00 PM.

Agenda Items

1. Minutes

The minutes of September 12, 2016 were unanimously approved.

2. Green Mountain Power (GMP) – Cass Wright

Many of our public trees are close to power lines, and are severely pruned by GMP. In order to be sure that the town's trees receive the best possible care, it is important for the town to maintain a close working relationship with GMP. Cass has been in touch with Dave DeSimone from GMP. Mr. DeSimone told Cass that community cooperation is of paramount concern to the company. Mr. DeSimone offered to come to Rockingham to meet with the Tree Committee. The Committee would like to meet with Mr. DeSimone, and plans to do that later this year.

3. Tree Maintenance training – Grant Conclusion

The Care of the Urban Forest Project concluded with a municipal training session led by Mark Duntemann, founder and owner of Natural Path Urban Forestry Consultants, and Elise Shadler of the VT Urban & Community Forestry Program. The ten participants from Rockingham (two from Highway Dept., two from Water Dept., Tree Warden, and Tree Committee members) agreed that this was a tremendously useful educational session. Mark has offered to return to Rockingham to assist with additional training. He has also offered to help anyone who is interested in becoming a certified arborist. Polly will follow up on that and find out the details of the certification process.

As a bonus for participating in the project, Rockingham will receive, free of charge, all nine sections of The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 Standards for Arboriculture.

Ellen and Polly will finalize the Rockingham Community Forest Maintenance Plan and bring it to a future meeting for approval by the Tree Committee.

Polly will get in touch with Elise to figure out how to update the Tree Inventory that the state maintains online.

4. Henry Street Tree Planting

The Tree Committee is moving ahead with a plan to plant trees on Henry ST, where greenbelts were replaced by sure pack covered strips that are now used for parking. The Tree Committee would like to see sections of the sure pack converted to greenbelt islands that can be used for planting trees. In order to determine where the greenbelt can be restored, the Tree Committee will do a survey of the street. Ellen will be in touch with Committee members to organize the survey, which will take place within the next few weeks. When the locations for the planting sites have been finalized, Chip will determine the cost of the project. It is expected that the use of recycled town material (such as granite curbing) will help to lower the cost.

5. Japanese Maple

The town received a donation of a Japanese maple tree. Polly will get in touch with Mike Hinds to determine where the tree should be planted.

6. Other Business

Replacement trees – Maple Hill Nursery is going to replace the four Adams crabapples that it planted in June. The replacement trees will arrive at Maple Hill in late October. Polly will let the Committee know when the trees are at the nursery, and Committee members are welcome to inspect the trees before planting.

7. Next Meeting

The next Tree Committee meeting is scheduled for November 14, at 4 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 PM.

Compiled by:

Polly Thompson

Tree Committee member