

RECEIVED

By Town Clerk at 10:57 am, Mar 31, 2023

Town of Maynard
MAYNARD TREE COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, March 1, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Lee at 7 pm via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Leslie Bryant, Lee Eyster, Neil Pederson, Steve Smith and Danny Schissler.

MOTION to approve the minutes of the February 6 meeting was made by Leslie. It was seconded by Danny and approved.

CURRENT ITEMS:

Tree Committee by-law development, potential plantings in the Basin and grants: Danny and Steve reported on meeting with Justin at his office February 28.

Basin possibilities: Justin can commit a crew to remove the island concrete and make a curb cut. No town funds will be appropriated for soil remediation/air spading or rain garden plantings. Justin "deputized" Danny and Steve to oversee those portions of the project and suggested we look for pro bono work by a contractor. Lee will reach out to a certified arborist she knows about this. Danny suggested we might do a public demonstration for the rain garden ground preparation, perhaps through a Cultural District Enhancement Fund grant, a CDEF (pot shop mitigation fund). Danny made a motion that we request Justin to notify Bill Nemser that Tree Committee will be an applicant for a CDEF grant for planting the Basin traffic island. Steve seconded it and it was approved. Danny will make the request. Bill approves the grants on a rolling basis and Justin manages the funds. Steve will work on a budget for this, keeping in mind that plantings there will be facing a hostile environment. This might require planting both native and non-native species. Justin is willing to make changes to reduce snow plowing against the island. Watering was discussed, wondering if Open Table might help us out with that, using the water gate valve at Memorial Park. Danny will confirm with Justin that the value can be used.

As an aside, monies still available from the downtown arboretum project are still available for planting in the two empty wells on Main Street, with some funds left over that could be used for understory plantings there.

Grants: CSMI application for ailanthus removal in Glenwood Cemetery has been made, but it has a longer permitting process that the timeline allows, according to Julia Flanary.

DCR Urban Forestry grants and Eversource Go Green grants: Danny reported that both are 50-50 matching grants awarded on a reimbursable basis. We would need funds up front to execute a project. Kate suggested that a land trust might make a loan for this. These grants have October application deadlines. Danny reported that Justin would assist with these, but that they need to be done a year in advance of deadlines if we want local funds or matching in-kind volunteer hours to be utilized.

Kate reported that the One Tree Planted grant application had been made online.

By-law development: Danny and Steve reported that the definitions section of the draft was discussed in detail. They will revise the draft for the next Tree Committee meeting so that a vote can be taken on definitions. They plan to meet with Justin again in a couple of weeks.

Planning Board liaison: Danny and possibly Steve will attend the March 14 Planning Board meeting via zoom.

Green Meadow School project landscape plan: There is no update.

Arbor Day: Steve reported that Justin had approved the planting of a Sourwood on the east side in front of Town Hall for Arbor Day. Sourcing details are not finalized as yet. Sylvan or Millikin Nursery.

Downtown Arboretum walk with Julie Coop on April 28: Neil agreed to attend the walk.

Tree City USA: Lee reported that the application had been submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Information Day at the Library March 18, 10:30-12. Lee volunteered to bring some photos of our previous Arbor Day plantings at the schools among other things.

MOTION to adjourn was made by Leslie. It was seconded by Danny and approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

UPCOMING MEETING: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 (subject to change)