

Town of Maynard
MAYNARD TREE COMMITTEE MEETING
Held Remotely Maynard, MA 01754
Wednesday, September 14, 2022 5:30 PM

Members Present: Lee Caras, Danny Schissler, Steve Smith, Neil Pederson, Leslie Bryant

Members Absent: Jamie Butler

Liaison Non-voting Members Present: Justin DeMarco

Additional Attendees: Kate Wheeler, Lois Tetreault, Orian Greene, Jon Grinnell, Maggie Day, Caroll L.

I. Call Meeting to Order:

Meeting called to order at 5:35 by Lee

II. Approve Minutes of previous meetings: June 22 and July 27, 2022

- June 22nd meeting minutes
 - o Steve Smith was listed as absent, but was present
 - Neil Pederson fixed the minutes
- Motion to approve July and June as amended by Steve
 - o All approved

III. Current Items

- Updates
 - o Downtown Arboretum Trees
 - o Water-use ban still on
 - o The ban typically ends October 2nd, but cannot guarantee the ban will be dropped this year
 - o Steve tentatively has a schedule to look at trees next week to see what is available
 - Trees tagged by Steve could be held for two weeks
 - o Justin says to aim for October 1st to make the decision; supports the general plan
 - o Because seasons have changed so much over the last few decades, perhaps we can plant in November

 - o High School redbud trees Update
 - Lee has watered with grey water and so far they look good

 - o Tree Committee Bylaw draft discussion with Justin DeMarco
 - Going over notes from comments between Justin and Leslie
 - Town trees not defined as being under the authority of the Tree Warden; only public shade trees are under the authority of the Tree Warden
 - Town trees are under the authority of the DPW Director
 - The Tree Committee is an advisory board to the Town Administrator. The Tree Warden is the advisor and liaison to the Tree Committee

- Justin indicates having more control through a by-law is complicated
- Tree Committee is looking to protect all of the trees on public lands. Is there a recommendation on how to accomplish that goal?
 - Can be done, but could be complex. State law supersedes local laws, but local laws can be tighter
 - We will need to go step by step to carefully work out the implications of new definitions and roles for the Tree Warden
 - Is it uncommon for Tree Wardens to have control over trees other than public trees?
 - Yes, it is uncommon because other bodies do not want to give up control of those roles
 - What is the goal of the by-law given the limitations of control and budget?
 - The committee's long-term goal is protect and expand the Town's tree canopy
- Maybe we need to revisit our goals to see what we can achieve and then break this down in small chunks to do the discussion?
- Student representative on the Committee – status
 - Greg Johnson prefers to have the student resign in writing
 - Numerous attempts have been made
 - Leslie makes a motion to remove Jamie Butler as a member of the Maynard Tree Committee; Lee seconded the motion
 - All voted in favor of the motion
- Davey Tree Survey data export project – update
 - Kate Wheeler, lead of The Maynard Tree Corps, proposes to add the planted trees to the database
 - Could trees removed be noted in a database?
 - We are not sure

IV. New business

- Newton is looking develop a moratorium to prevent the removal of non-dangerous trees
 - Melissa Brown, the Newton representative, is looking for the tree groups to write a letter in support for the moratorium
 - Motion to send a support letter made by Leslie and seconded by Lee

- Discussion about the action leads to the conclusion that we likely could not and should not send a support letter
- Motion fails

Member/public comments

V. Adjournment.

- Motion to adjourn: motion by Lee, seconded by Steve.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm

UPCOMING MEETING: October 12, 2022 (tentative)