

Longmeadow Tree Committee Minutes
Tuesday February 21, 2023
Remote Meeting

The Tree Committee meeting was held remotely via Zoom. The meeting opened at 6:08 PM. The following members were present: Chair Dave Marinelli, Mark Tolosky, Kathy Kucab, Bari Jarvis, Steve Steiner. Pat Carnahan and Tree Warden Sean Van Deusen were absent. William Seefeld and Louis Kornet attended as members of the public.

Public Comments: Bill Seefeld commented on the numbers of maple trees he has observed along Longmeadow Street that appear to be in very bad condition. Dave Marinelli replied that the Davey Tree Report has categorized trees according to severity of their condition issues and likely are on the schedule for removal. Lou Kornet inquired if the early Springlike weather will have a negative effect on trees. Dave told the Committee that lack of snow/rain has a more significant negative effect on trees than warm winter temperatures.

January minutes: Minutes unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Tree Warden Report – Sean was unable to attend tonight.

Update on Spring Tree Planting – Dave and Sean are comparing lists of open tree requests. Dave advised that the Town currently has at least 80 open tree planting requests and that more are always coming in. Planting will begin as soon as possible.

Update on Hazard Tree Assessment Survey – Removal of identified hazardous and declining trees will begin once ARPA funds are available and a contract is put out to bid.

American Chestnut signs in Parks – Dave advised that the Community Preservation Committee approved the plan submitted for two park informational kiosks. Town meeting approval is necessary.

New Business:

Arbor Day – Gardeners on the Green will donate \$150 toward the purchase of saplings and will help distribute at the programs. Longmeadow Gardeners is also supporting the purchase. This year Arbor Day is April 28. Schools will be contacted to see if they would again like to participate. The exact dates at each school are determined after talking with the school principals. Purchasing prebagged saplings is reasonable and the children look forward to taking them home to plant with their families.

A citizen contacted Dave and offered to fund the planting of a tree at the Community House to replace one recently removed. When informed that the Memorial Tree program has been suspended because there is nobody available to water at this time the citizen (who lives nearby) offered to water for the next two years. Sponsored trees normally cost the donor \$350, which covers materials and labor. The committee felt the citizen should be charged only the \$150 materials cost, since the Committee will provide planting labor and she will be taking responsibility for watering.

Longmeadow Fall Festival – As part of the festival we again would like to hand out saplings since they were so well received last year. Dave has been reviewing tree catalogues to determine what will be

available and affordable in the fall. The committee was in favor of purchasing a selection of trees that would provide diversity and choice for citizens. There was consensus that the three trees selected last year were appropriate and popular. American Tamarac may be a good addition to the mix as Longmeadow has few, if any, of this variety of tree. We handed out 300 trees last year and would like to order the same number this year. The order for trees should be put in soon. The plants can be put into the Johnny Appleseed Memorial nursery at the Community Garden until fall to be sure the plants are available when need.

Set Next Meeting Date/Time: Next meeting 3/21/2023

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm

The purpose of the Tree Committee is to promote a healthy and sustainable community forest by planting and maintaining quality trees and providing education and advocacy to the public on the benefits of trees.