

Longmeadow Tree Committee Minutes
Tuesday March 21, 2023
Remote Meeting

The Tree Committee meeting was held remotely via Zoom. The meeting opened at 6:01 PM. The following members were present: Chair Dave Marinelli, Kathy Kucab, Steve Steiner, Tree Warden Sean Van Deusen, and Patrick Carnahan. Bari Jarvis and Mark Tolosky were absent. William Seefeld and Louis Kornet attended as members of the public.

Public Comments: Lou Kornet spoke to the committee about the RE-GREEN SPRINGFIELD program. The program involves planting and tagging trees in Forest Park. Volunteers from all over are welcome, no experience needed. Lou mentioned many Longmeadow residents have participated, and others might be interested as well. Dave offered to let Lou put the information on the Tree Committee Facebook page Public Shade Trees so interested individuals can look into the program.

February Minutes: Rollcall vote taken to approve minutes. Three votes yes, two abstentions. Minutes approved

Old Business:

Tree Warden Report – Sean Van Deusen has given Tighe and Bond the data from the Davey Report regarding hazard trees. T & B are working on overlaying that information on to our GIS/inventory program. It is taking longer than anticipated. Dave offered to generate a list of addresses from the gps data in order to facilitate ground-truthing the remaining trees. Sean offered to get the data sent to Dave.

Spring Tree Planting update – Sean reports a contractor has been hired for the Spring Tree planting. The company, Arment Trucking is not specifically a landscaping company but has the necessary equipment and manpower needed to do the work.

There is a salary line item in the budget for a combined Tree Warden/Conservation Agent position. Sean will confirm whether or not hiring is dependent on a DCR grant.

Arbor Day – Dave has contacted the elementary schools to see how many fourth grade students they have so saplings can be purchased for handout during Arbor Day Programs. This year the ceremonial tree will be planted at the Blueberry Hill School. Third graders at the school are hoping to memorialize their second grade teacher, and a joint program may occur.

As discussed in February, a town resident would like to pay for and water a replacement tree at the Community House. – Sean will ask the Town Manager if this is acceptable.

Longmeadow Fall Festival – Dave is planning to purchase saplings for distribution at the Fall Festival now, because many nurseries only ship in the springtime. He will heel them into the ground at the Community Garden until the festival.

New Business:

Pat Carnahan is passing the word that Earth Day Cleanup is scheduled for April 2. Anybody interested in participating can sign up on Longmeadow's Earth Day webpage.
<https://www.longmeadowma.gov/1241/Earth-Day>

Also, he would like to bring to the Tree Warden's attention that Eversource work being done in the vicinity of Longmeadow Street can result in heavy equipment being left parked too near tree belt trees. Sean said he will keep a lookout and anybody noticing same can call or send him an email so he can remind the company it is not an acceptable practice.

Dave told the committee that there seems to be quite a lot of tree activity on what may be the public Right of Way adjoining the Longmeadow Country Club. Private individuals are not permitted to remove trees from such spaces without permission from the Tree Warden. Sean will get in touch with the groundskeeper to review how far onto the course the right of way goes and discuss replacing trees that have been taken down thus far.

Code enforcement individuals have been hired. Dave suggested that duties might include reminding home owners that house numbers and other objects may not be affixed to public shade trees. They may also be able to get Eversource to remove pole guy wires from public shade trees, a practice not allowed under the bylaws. Sean offered to bring this up with Eversource and asked Committee members to report Eversource violations to him.

Set Next Meeting Date/Time: Next meeting 4/18/2023 at 6pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:33 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.