

Barre City Tree Stewardship Committee - Meeting Minutes June 3, 2019

Committee Members Present: Conor Teal, Amanda Garland, Nate Ebert

Committee Members Absent: Nicko Rubin

Staff Present: City Manager, Steven MacKenzie

Visitors: Patty Meriam, Board Member: Barre Granite Museum

1. Call to order – 6:03 pm by Member Conor Teal

2. Changes to agenda? No.

3. Approve minutes of meeting for May 6, 2019.

- Motion to approve as presented made by A. Garland and seconded by C. Teal, passed unanimously.

4. Announcements:

- Steven: Potential for tree screening at City-owned Water Treatment Center behind Granite Museum. Discussed possibility of finding available trees and if the Committee had some available to plant. Asked the committee's opinion on this potential since he felt skeptical it would make sense in the location he had in mind. Upon further clarification of the siting by the committee and Meriam, Steven seems to be in favor of planting. Suggested the committee inspect the site again or that he would if he found some time.

- Amanda: Already did a walk by as well and printed out overhead imaging of the area to clarify the location of where some trees are recommended. Potential for erosion control against the Jail Branch, city mows space, would inhibit view of water treatment plant from the Museum site. Will take a look again as soon as she is able and could take photos.

- Patty: Some environmental orgs might assist in planting or has a potential for finding volunteers. Knows of a farmer who has offered to donate trees to the Museum, so some trees could be acquired through them. Suggested hosting Committee's leftover trees at the Museum until they're planted (next few days ideally) and would be watered. Also has space in parking area to have more trees.

- Nate: Red Maples are also available and could be grown to not be pruned low. Will eventually grow in, and tall. Says he could scope out the property next week. Recommends Intervale as options for tree purchases if Committee's trees won't be available in time.

- Amanda: Committee acquired new trees from Energy-Saving Tree Event (20)

- (10) Red Maples, (10) River Birches
- Chatted with people and got contacts for potential new committee members.
- Committee considering giveaway event or planting event, depending on if a location can be found in short time. Or the more likely opportunity is on City property, such as the water treatment center.

- Nate believes the Birches are a bit weak and would need to go into the ground soon if to survive. Potential for a site on Brook St.

5. Main Street Trees

- Amanda: The trees that were dead or dying and removed recently were originally planted too deep, metal cages were still left around root ball. Currently waiting for metal frames/braces to be wrapped

around new trees, trial run on a tree in Matheson Park first. Recommends mulch from Barre Town dump on Holden Rd.

- Nate: Common that there are improper plantings, leaving cages. Asked if City mulches? Should be fed by composted bark mulch, avoid wrapping around trunk.
- Steven: Supports bracing since much of the recurrent damage to trunks are from city equipment. Offered to pay for tree bags, putting aside \$5000/year for tree maintenance. Might be two or three years of accrued funds. Problem area: old, failing trees that are splitting onto private property. Noticing that an informational page about caring for them would be helpful to City Staff and the public.

6. Emerald Ash Borer

- Nate: Received Montpelier EAB mitigation report and shared it with Committee. Recognized that injection services to attempt to kill the bugs in some Montpelier Ash trees seemed reasonable in some cases to try to save them, however he generally opposes the practice due to the potential for contamination of other plants and soils from the toxic chemicals. He says that the Barre City Ash trees should be tested at some point for the bugs, but wouldn't recommend the injection methods due to the high financial cost, low success rate, and the lack of data reporting regarding potential harm of other plants and animals from the chemicals.
- Amanda: Only around a dozen Ash Trees on public property. Recommends reconvening on the next meeting after becoming more familiar with the EAB plan. Prioritize hazard tree pruning.

7. Committee is considering cancelling July meeting due to conflicting schedules, will reassess later this month.

8. Adjourn.

- Motion to adjourn at 7:01 pm by C. Teal and seconded by N. Ebert, passed unanimously.