

**Barre City Tree Stewardship Committee - Meeting Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting (Virtual)**  
**February 10, 2021 at 5:30 pm-6:30pm (Every Second Wednesday of Month)**

Committee Members Present: Amanda Garland, Nate Ebert, Amy Galford, Conor Teal  
City Staff Present: Jeff Bergeron, Tree Warden; Lucas Herring, Mayor.  
Guest: Ellen Sivret

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order

Amanda called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

2. Changes to Agenda

No changes to agenda.

3. Tree Warden Statutes and Review

Amanda mentioned recent tree warden statutes, Jeff said he's been reviewing them, Amanda asked him to let the committee know if there are any changes we should discuss.

**Action Item #1: Jeff to review the recent statutes, bring up relevant changes to committee as needed.**

4. Announcements

Mayor Lucas Herring: Reaching out to all chairs of different committees – seeking documentation of committee charges, plans for what they're going to work over the next year, as a goal to compile those pursuits from all committees into a form of master strategic plan. He's requesting the plan from the Tree Stewardship Committee by April 15, 2021.

**Action item #2: Committee agreed to send Lucas these plans by April 15.**

5. Main Street Trees Discussion: Pruning Schedule/Tree Guards/Spring Planting

Amanda asked for update from Jeff on tree guards.

Jeff: Sent email to committee earlier with attachment diagram of tree guard that will be ordered.

Will order 5 tree guards for now, order to be placed tomorrow, 2/11/21. He would like to take 1 to EMS Machining as prototype to see what they can build. The City has used their services in the past with success.

1 guard will be placed in Matheson Playground, should be able to get into ground soon after arriving.

Ellen: Offered that the Playground could pay for one tree guard if that would be helpful, Jeff said would consider this but believes the fund being used for purchasing is sufficient.

**Action Item #3: Jeff will order initial 5 tree guards, taking 1 to EMS Machining to showcase, 1 to Matheson Playground, then plan for them all to be installed.**

Pruning schedule: Jeff asked Nate for guidance.

Nate: Avoid maples and others that have high sap flow in spring; if trees are really dry, be more conservative with pruning in the summer.

Ellen: There are 2 ash trees on the Playground and a lower one that have some die-back – maybe someone could look at those trees?

Jeff asked Nate about setting up a time to assess together, Nate agreed, Ellen agreed to join if possible too.

**Action Item #4: Jeff will schedule date to assess the Ash trees with Nate.**

## 6. City Tree Nursery Planning

From last month's meeting: Committee members were to review for potential city-owned sites available for 350.org's MotherUp tree giveaway as well as tree nursery siting options.

Last year, Amanda had planted some trees with 350.org/MotherUp, including seedlings. They also provided volunteers to help plant them.

Amy: Reviewed Bailey Street site (city water tank), could be possible nursery site or for additional planting. It's a decent size site, within farmland area, open land with plenty of sun exposure. Access road from Bailey St. to the tank but not a public street.

Amy: Also considered: 73 Granite St. site. It has a small marker, between house and Stevens Branch. Small site but has fence on the stream side, easy access, could use

for small planting. Jeff: There had been a house fire there, historical marker commemorating the event, house was torn down and site donated to city.

Amanda: Went out recently with her students to the Reservoir site. Steve Micheli had identified 3 possible sites. Students had looked at the 3 sites, picked one based on access and drainage, sun, maybe some gradient of different amounts of sun, within fenced area on map, aesthetically beautiful area/park-like area, other relatively recently planted trees nearby (Oak trees).

Amanda and her students have been researching Tree nursery supplies. Fontaine's Lumber Mill already have lots of cedar posts – 30 posts. Galvanized 4 foot fencing, stack to 8' w/ staples. Will decide later on when to purchase.

Amanda: Recommends Reservoir site, transportation options for visitors to the site is not so bad, able to get a large bus there; parking options good, but not too public; one of her students volunteered to research and design a gate; the visit this month can be a snowshoe adventure.

Conor: Agrees that the extra security/protection of the seedlings at the Reservoir is worth the location alone. Also agrees that it would be a good site for hosting future events with plenty of available access. Prefers to see site up-close before the final decision.

**Action Item #5: Amanda will send around scheduling dates for Committee site visit.**

#### 7. MotherUp Tree Scout Mission Results

Amanda been in touch with MotherUp- they can help source our plant nursery trees. May be a reliable way to source the trees: comes from a midwestern tree farm: Cold Stream Farm Nursery.

Ellen: Winooski Conservation District uses their trees too.

MotherUp contact sent Amanda a list of trees available, Amanda shared spreadsheet tree listing with committee during meeting.

From previous regular meeting, committee discussed having 5 different species with different characteristics, appropriate for parks and downtown street plantings. Committee discussed features for narrowing down list.

Nate: Swamp White Oak has done well many places. These would not be same as the crosses that are downtown – will be less columnar but will do well. Hackberries we had did not do well but would be good to try more.

Hazelnut smaller size but hardy, not sure about salt tolerance, adaptable to various soils.

Amy: Is Sycamore too big, rule out? Nate: Located in wet places, don't grow as big here as further south– but cleanup issues (spiky and sticky fruits, big leaves) so be careful where siting those.

Conor: Prefers Weeping Willows – another wet species tree. Nate: would need some maintenance work later, stick to lower traffic areas for those.

Ellen: Would be nice to start trees along stream areas where invasives can be a problem but may be hard to site.

Jeff: Had walked with Amanda around for sites, Brook St area flood mitigation site, Farwell site, others – maybe those could take a few more trees.

Nate: For some more open areas, recommends: Burr Oaks or White Oaks.

Amanda: Sounds like a diversity in general is interesting to the committee. Remember we need to replace 4 trees this year.

Amanda asked Lucas about committee procedure/process to narrow down list of trees. Lucas: Two people can work on a list and bring back to committee – but open meeting must apply if more than two people working on it (based on size of 5 members).

Street trees recommended so far: Hackberry; Hazelnut.

Open space recommended so far: Weeping Willows; Swamp White Oak; Burr Oak.

Amy asked re: planting dates – may be able to have them come in rolling basis across spring/summer so not all at once.

**Action Item #6: Purchasing process – Jeff and Amanda to chat by email about how to order and which trees to select. Will check on estimated delivery dates and whether they can be staggered.**

8. Adjourn

Committee adjourned at 6:27 pm.