

Barre City Tree Stewardship Committee - Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting (Virtual)
March 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: None.
Guests: None.

Agenda

1. Call to Order

Amanda called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

2. Updates and Announcements - Tick Education Offering

Tick education:

Amanda: Community member emailed her and offered to give the committee signs to hang on trees for reminders about tick awareness. She asked the committee their opinions on this option.

Amy: Believes she recognizes the community member who has also talked to her about the issues of ticks. Supports the use of signs in certain areas, but not sure if this committee is the appropriate decision-maker on this issue.

Amanda: Worried about creating a fear of entering natural areas due to the warning signs, but understands the need for awareness.

Amy: Suggested: recreation sites, bike paths, future tree nursery, and/or the Cow Pasture green space.

Nate: Agreed that it's not necessarily part of our scope.

Conor: Agrees with other viewpoints, suggested maybe the community member contact the bike path committee.

Amanda: Will consider a sign for the site at the tree nursery and will email them back about other options.

No other announcements from the committee.

3. Charge and Priorities - Mission

Request from the Mayor on documenting committee mission and goals:

Amanda: Shared spreadsheet with questions about goals of the committee, with specifics on how to achieve them, costs, responsibilities, timeline, etc.

Group discussion and review of the questions occurred. The committee filled in a few goals into the spreadsheet.

Action Item #1: Committee will work on shared Goals spreadsheet document, will comment on, then review at next meeting; vote on final product.

Action Item #2: Committee will review Mission Statement, vote on final product and inclusion into the Mayor's document at next meeting.

Action Item #3: Committee will produce an official document with these goals and review at next meeting.

4. Main Street Trees Work

Amanda: Waiting on a tree guard update. Will want to scope out conditions of current trees. Asked the committee: Should empty spots be filled before tree guards are ready?

Conor: Trees available for purchase?

Amanda: Could order similar aged ones from last supplier.

Nate: Not as big a deal for spring to have tree guards ready, could also wait until fall planting since most damage occurs in winter.

Amanda: Asked about differences/benefits of planting in spring vs. fall.

Nate: The worry is about the summer time drought. Watering situation? Plan?

Amanda: Shared how there was some watering done at the planting of last set of Main Street Trees, but subsequent watering was limited through the summer. No clear decision on who was supposed to water them, though it's normally the Tree Warden's team that maintains the street trees.

Nate: Agrees that it should be the City's responsibility for making sure trees are watered, especially newly planted ones.

Amy: Do they have a watering tank to go around and water the trees?

Amanda: Thinks they do have one already, but the Parks Department may need reminders or a set schedule to make sure the Main Street trees have the gator bags filled regularly.

Conor: Recommends a local business sponsorship to help care for them. Agrees that the City should be the primary maintainer but if there's lag from other City priorities, local business owners could check on the trees closest to their store. It would also build community pride in the trees.

Amanda: Likes the idea of business owners sponsoring a tree in front of their shops. Knows of at least one who cleaned up a tree plot by picking up trash/cigarette butts and also planted flowers. Asked Conor if he could follow-up with an outreach plan and watering instructions.

Nate: Suggests that businesses be given regular reminders/status check-ins through the summer, plus informational materials on the trees.

Action Item #4: Conor will devise a business outreach plan for "adopting a tree" program to clean around trees and watering needs.

Amanda: Recommends a spring planting if possible as long as a watering schedule is in-place.

Conor: Number of empty plots needed to fill on Main Street?

Amanda: 5 empty plots. 7 tree guards needed.

Action Item #5: Amanda will ask Jeff for capabilities of watering, tree guard updates, and possible spring planting with Committee budget. She will also email Nicko to see if there's street trees available for sale.

5. Tree Nursery Updates

Amanda: Reported on her contacts with Fontaine's Lumber in East Montpelier who offered to give the Committee a deal on fence posts and also install them. The tree nursery Grant funds will be used for this purpose and to purchase wire fencing to attach to the posts. A final decision on material purchases will be made at next regular meeting.

Committee had used a scheduling app to find possible days to convene at Orange Reservoir location. Friday, March 12 was the next available day. Nate would not be available to visit site that day, but Amanda showed the potential site map to the committee and described the location.

Amanda, Conor, and Amy will scope out the reservoir site with Jeff on Friday to confirm the effectiveness of a tree nursery there.

6. Adjourn

Committee adjourned at 6:27 pm.