

**Barre City Tree Stewardship Committee - Meeting Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting (Virtual)**  
**June 9, 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: Peter Zakrewski

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order

Amanda called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

2. Announcements/Introductions

Amanda asked the committee if there were any new announcements. None reported.

The meeting's only guest, Peter Zakrewski, was given an opportunity to introduce themselves and interest in attending the meeting.

Peter: Has been living in Barre City for 20+ years and has a personal admiration of the tree canopy in the area, would like to help the city become a registered Arbor Day Foundation Tree City.

Amanda thanked Peter for their strong interest in protecting the City's trees, however, she personally feels that the City hasn't earned that badge yet, highlighting a lack of species diversity. Though she and the rest of the committee will support the effort and requested Peter join the committee to help and explained the process to do so. Peter reported they had already shared info about the Tree City designation with the Mayor.

3. Budget Overview

Committee decided to postpone this topic as the Tree Warden was absent for the meeting.

4. Main Street Trees Work

Committee decided to postpone this topic as the Tree Warden was absent for the meeting, the primary information that is of interest is the status on tree guards acquisition and watering capability of city staff.

5. Tree Nursery Updates

Amanda shared an overview of the recent work she and her students had done at the Tree Nursery. 64 trees had been planted in three trenches. They were rather difficult to dig due to a significant source of rocks in the area and hard-packed clay soil. Reports that wood chips will be needed soon for moisture containment and protection from soil erosion during any heavy rains.

She made a statement to the Times Argus who took some photos and wrote an article about the Nursery.

Nate: Congratulated Amanda's group for their hard work and expressed caution about the water filling and not draining, committee will need to keep an eye on drainage.

Amanda: Agreed with Nate's assessment. Mentioned that it's an 8 year growth project to keep them in the ground, so proper long-term care is needed.

### **Nursery Event planning:**

Committee decided to host a Nursery work party event open to the public: more trenches need to be dug, fresh soil and wood chips needs to be delivered and spread out. **Committee settled on a date of: Saturday, June 26 at 9:00am.** Group will post announcements on FPF, share with city council, and by word of mouth.

Conor: Asked about the scale of the event. Suggested acquiring or making an informational flyer about the trees planted to share to the public.

Amanda: Even small group of 5 community members plus the committee members will be enough for the work needed. Supportive of the info card.

Nate: Agreed to bring water and buckets, shovels, and the wood chips will be dropped off before June 26 event.

Amanda: Also mentioned the availability of the committee's city budget for a portable water tank. Separately, the nursery grant budget stands at approximately \$1,500, funds still to spend: will spend on soil and more fencing to fill in gaps (repel digging animals). Committee is also considering a small shed to store tools. Also discussed the possibility of building a water catchment tower in late-summer/fall.

**Action Item #1: Amanda will email Jeff Bergeron, to discuss the process of getting a permanent water container for the nursery, as well as a mobile water tank for the Main Street trees.**

### 6. Logging in the Barre Town Forest

Amanda presented her personal disappointment and disapproval of the recent logging in the Barre Town Forest in the Millstone area and shared how many residents of both towns were voicing their concerns publicly. She recognized that this portion of the forest is not within the committee's jurisdiction, however understands that Barre City residents often make use of the space for the recreation. She wanted to share her opinion and asked for the committee's views on how to respond to residents about this issue.

Amy: Suggested that the committee research and present examples of good selective clearing methods and projects, in order to inform residents and decision-makers on responsible practices.

Conor: Was most concerned that there wasn't a clear re-planting plan and that the scale of logging with relative low returns from sales of lumber doesn't appear to be worth the effort taken.

Nate: Was disappointed in the amount of debris created and left to volunteers to clean up, disrupting a popular recreation location for mountain bikers, including himself.

The committee did not make an official statement but encouraged each other and the public to voice their opinions and research selective clearing methods.

#### 7. Succession Planning for Chairperson

Amanda: Shared her thoughts on how this is the time to consider a new Chairperson for the committee, stating she has enjoyed the role and praised the committee for its work. However, she feels it is important to have a fresh turnover in the position to get new ideas, actions, and different perspectives in the role. She says she is capable of continuing for awhile longer as the Chair, but if no committee member wants to take on the Chair position, she recommends that the committee put more energy towards recruiting new committee members. Asked the committee if anyone wanted to take on the role.

Conor: Recognized Amanda's proactive energy and effectiveness in the role, understanding how she is involved in other committees and busy as a teacher. Would like Amanda to stay as the Chair for however long she is comfortable with it.

Nate: Also praised Amanda's efforts, but shared how has been thoroughly occupied with his business and unable to take on more responsibilities within the committee.

Amy: Agreed with the other committee members and feels a little behind on her own work within the committee, too busy to take on the Chair role at this time. Hopes that events like the one at the nursery will help get people involved with the committee.

#### 8. Outreach Update/Website Review

Amanda: Asked about the status of the committee website and how to get the updated Mission Statement uploaded.

Amy: Reported that she has some ideas and has been looking into other committee webpages to emulate their designs. Would like to gather photos and post on there well. Mentioned how she has been busy with projects at work and at home, but will find more time to work on the site development.

Amanda: Reported that the City will be allowing committees to meet in-person next month and asked the committee on opinions of preference to meet. The committee shared how it is easier to meet virtually but would like to meet in-person at some point and certainly if it becomes required again. Will meet virtually again in July, but will decide at next meeting to take a month break in August.

#### 6. Adjourn

Committee adjourned at 6:28 pm.