

## **Barre City Tree Stewardship Committee**

**Regular Meeting: Near Orange Reservoir, Reservoir Road before Partridge Road  
(Location of new Barre City Tree Nursery, parking available along road)**

**Note: Please wear a face mask and maintain social distancing while on the site.**

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

**Committee Members Absent: Amy Galford**

**City Staff Present: Jeff Bergeron**

**May 12, 2021 at 5:30 pm-6:30pm (Every Second Wednesday of Month)**

### **Agenda:**

#### 1. Call to Order

Amanda called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

#### 2. Updates and Announcements

No new announcements.

#### 3. Budget Overview - Tree Warden

Jeff briefly shared some budget details to the committee.

#### 4. Main Street Trees Update

Jeff gave an update on the tree guards order. There was a significant cost increase for ordering a sample guard online plus an extended wait time for delivery, so he decided to cancel the order and seek out local fabricators to design a working model. He says that he is in contact with a few vendors, comparing designs/costs. Bill Ahearn is also involved in the project.

Amanda reiterated the committee's decision to hold off on new planting on Main Street until tree guards are delivered.

The committee also discussed with Jeff about the potential for a watering tank to be placed on a city truck to water the Main Street trees this summer. Nate recommended at least twice a month. Jeff showed a potential tank near the Nursery site that was used by his team and borrowed from the Water Treatment facility. The committee didn't decide on using that tank yet, but Jeff will seek out other options, potentially buying a new tank for his department. Discussion of contracting out watering was also considered.

#### 5. Tree Nursery Tour: Rutland Forester Advice

Amanda visited an active tree nursery through the City of Rutland: Dave Richards Shade Tree Nursery. They've grown and planted 800 trees over the past 20 years. She discussed the intentions of the Barre City Nursery and received recommendations from the Rutland nursery on how to efficiently care for the trees, watering procedures, diversity plans, protective measures for the trees, and took photos of the layout for reference.

A reminder was given on the threat of wildlife damaging seedling trees, so extra emphasis on restricting even the smallest of gaps in the fence line. Amanda pointed out how fine chicken wire is in short supply across the state.

The majority of trees being cultivated are street trees and Rutland has a mission to maintain a 5% limit on any particular tree species to improve diversity. This committee is in favor of a similar track for Barre City.

## 6. Barre City Tree Nursery: Next Steps

The fence posts are nearly all erected, a gate is yet to be completely installed. Wire fencing has started around the perimeter through the diligent work of volunteer high school students.

Amanda recommends a press release next month on the status of the tree nursery, performing subsequent outreach to the public on the pace of the construction.

The committee discussed the importance of a tool shed with a water catchment system to help with summer watering. If the grant funding cannot fully cover the cost, the committee felt it worthwhile to pull from the tree budget to have these purchased for the site.

Nate has offered to drop off wood chips for ground cover.

The committee was appreciative of the City improving the culvert and driveway at the access point to the nursery. An official road sign for the nursery pointing to the entrance will need to be arranged. The available parking area is sufficient for a large amount of visitors at any one time. The committee foresees the location as a good, small event or meeting space.

## 7. City Council Presentation Discussion

Amanda will be presenting to City Council at their regular meeting on May 18. She will give an overview of what the committee has worked on recently and the goals of the committee for the coming fiscal year. Topics include: the Tree Nursery status, [350.org](http://350.org) tree plantings in the city, Main Street trees (current and future), and pruning recommendations.

## 8. TD Bank Tree Grant Opportunity

Amanda had shared a grant opportunity with the committee on a potential tree planting through TD Bank; the committee discussed in more detail at the Regular Meeting. The grant application is due June 4th with a \$5000 - \$12000 funding opportunity for at least 20 trees. The trees would be planted with the volunteer efforts of TD Bank employees between Sept. and Nov. of this year.

The committee welcomes the offering, though will take some time this month to research potential city-owned sites with space available for that amount of trees. One of the committee members will take on the application process, if a site can be found in-time.

Jeff offered a Bobcat tractor to assist with moving ball and burlap trees that are difficult to maneuver. He also recommended near school recreational sites where there is a lack of shade trees.

## 9. Adjourn

Nate made a motion to adjourn, Conor seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.