

**Barre City Tree Stewardship Committee - Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting (Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Alumni Hall)  
October 13, 2021 at 5:30 pm-6:30pm  
Hybrid (Online and In-person)**

Google Meet joining info:

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/nfj-exmz-qkr>

Or dial: (US) +1 334-409-1254 PIN: 975 197 963#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/nfj-exmz-qkr?pin=8705922020613>

Committee Members present: Amanda Garland, Amy Galford (Online), Conor Teal, Nate Ebert

City Staff Present: Jeff Bergeron, Tree Warden

Guests: None

## **Agenda**

### **1. Call to Order and Changes to Agenda**

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

Amanda asked the Committee if there were any changes to the Agenda, none from other committee members. Amanda added a new agenda item for the end of the Agenda: Committee Volunteers and Transitions.

### **2. Committee Website Update**

Amy: Shared the update on how the Committee's webpage has been updated with a homepage that she likes, with resource links included. Committee agreed that the updates have improved the webpage. Amy will ask Jody to make some formatting changes to add uniformity. Amy asked the Committee to suggest photos worth posting on the webpage.

**Action Item #1: Committee will review the webpage and by next meeting bring any recommendations, including any photos, for further additions.**

### **3. Tree Ordinance Amendment & City Council Meeting Preparation**

Amy: Shared her analysis and recommendations for updating the Tree Ordinance. Her main takeaway was that she believes the City Attorney should confirm the verbiage and make the legal changes to match the most recent State requirements. She also shared how it may be helpful to ask other towns about their ordinances.

Jeff: Explained the Council Charge and that Council is mostly seeking recommendations from the Committee. Said that the process to draft a new ordinance will take some months and public hearings. He will contact the City Manager to talk about State law changes and will bring Amy's notes to him.

#### **4. Main Street Trees and Tree Guards Update**

Jeff updated the Committee on the current status of the Main Street Tree Guards. City staff have submitted a call for bids from five local metal shops with two quotes returned so far. Waiting for at least two more. The bids would include drawings and prices to be presented to the Committee.

There was a discussion over the potential of installing metal grates then connect them to the tree guards. One concern is if current trees are planted too high in the ground for soil to be removed to make room for the grates. Committee asked Jeff to seek out price quotes for grates as well.

Amanda: Generally, Main Street trees seem to be doing okay. Emphasized getting the guards installed before snow plowing, at least for the most recently planted trees.

Nate: Offered the use of his truck's portable water tank for future watering needs for the downtown Main Street trees.

**Action Item #2: Jeff will provide drawings and price quotes to the Committee when all bids are returned.**

#### **5. Tree Nursery Updates**

Amanda shared news that a grant from the 350VT organization will include approx. 150 trees in the spring to be transplanted to the Nursery. Her students have done some clean up of trees at the Nursery and they seem to be healthy. Nate asked if more wood chips are needed, but she did not think they're needed but more would be welcomed.

Amanda reported that Chestnut trees planted in Elmwood Cemetery seem to have survived this year.

Committee discussed the plans for a standing water tank. Jeff offered the potential of allocating some unused lumber that the City owns. He will also look into the proper sized water tank for the tower.

#### **6. Committee Volunteers and Transitions**

Nate: Announced that he has to step down from being a member of the committee due to time availability restrictions from running his business. He offered to donate wood chips for future tree plantings, as needed, and would be available as a consulting

resource to the Committee. He inquired on the procedure for stepping down and knows who to contact at the City for initiating the process.

Nate also noted that he was the only certified-arborist on the Committee and considered if someone with this certification would be needed on the Committee. He recommended the City hire a part-time Arborist position due to the large volume of tree care needed in Barre City. Amy offered the idea that perhaps a full-time position could be shared with a nearby town, Barre Town, for instance.

Amanda, Conor, Amy, and Jeff thanked Nate for his years of service and critical assistance and guidance in helping to create the Tree Stewardship Committee.

Amanda: Shared how she has mentioned that she would like to step down soon from her role as Chair of the committee. Amanda was going to make a Motion to nominate Amy to Chair, however, Amy declined the position at this time. Conor was also offered the role, however, he declined as well and recommended tabling the Motion after giving some time to Amy to reconsider. Amanda mentioned that she will ask the City for help in seeking out other volunteers. Nate offered the suggestion of recruiting Forestry students.

Amanda agreed to table the Motion and will continue in the role as Committee Chair.

## **6. Draft November Agenda**

Committee discussed the potential agenda items and decided on the following:

1. Call to Order and Changes to Agenda
2. Tree Ordinance Amendment Update
3. Main Street Trees and Tree Guards Update
4. Tree Nursery Update
5. Outreach for Volunteers/Committee Members
6. Draft December Agenda
7. Adjourn

## **7. Adjourn**

Amanda made a motion to adjourn. Conor seconded. All in favor. Committee adjourned at 6:28 pm.

The Tree Stewardship Committee will have its next regular meeting at 5:30p-6:30p, Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021.

Committee Webpage:

<https://www.barrecity.org/tree-committee/>