

**CITY OF BARRE  
PUBLIC BODY MEETING MINUTES**

**Committee/board: Tree Stewardship Committee**

**Date/Time of meeting: Second Thursday of each month: 12/8/2021 @ 5:30p - 6:30p**

**Location of meeting: 1st Floor Conference Room, Alumni Hall Meeting Center**

**Participants Present: Amanda Garland (Chair), Conor Teal, Amy Galford, Jeff Bergeron (Tree Warden)**

1. Call to order.

Amanda called the Meeting to Order at 5:35p.

2. Adjustments to the agenda.

Amanda had a new topic to bring to the agenda, but decided that the Roundtable will be a sufficient agenda item to discuss it in. The topic will be about the Annual Report for the Committee due in January.

3. Main Street Trees

Jeff provided an update on the Main Street tree guards, a project that the Committee has been studying and pursuing for the past two years. He provided a sketch design with dimensions of the final model chosen. He had sent the design to several local fabricators and after deliberation, chose Bauer Fabrication, Inc. out of Waterbury, VT.

Jeff reports that 40 tree guards will cost approximately: \$39,000. He is awaiting City Council approval for a 50% downpayment check to the company to start the fabrication process.

The tree guards will be made with solid steel with rebar stakes used to hold the base to the ground. If grates are purchased in the future, these guards can be installed directly to the grates. The guards will be ready by the coming spring and will be installed by city staff for current Main Street trees and new plantings in empty plots.

4. Tree Nursery Updates and Next Steps

Amanda gave an update on the Tree Nursery, reminding the Committee will be receiving a donation of 150 trees from 350VT, sourced at local nurseries, sometime in the spring. Her students have volunteered to dig further trenches. She provided the Committee with a sample sketch design of the storage shed and two water tanks (100+ gallons total) atop of it. Jeff believes there is enough rough cut timber to build the frame suggested, he will just locate it and confirm there isn't another use for them by his department.

The Committee discussed the potential of getting this built and placed in the spring in time for summer watering needs and for the new trees being planted. Conor suggested another tree planting event and ribbon cutting after the shed is built.

5. Recruitment

Committee discussed how there hasn't been any firm movement on new potential committee members. Conor shared his experience at the 12/13/21 Committee Celebration hosted by Mayor Herring, the topic of committee member recruitment was presented there. The consideration of a Committee-only Newsletter was discussed at the Celebration as well as praise for a past Tree Walk the Tree Committee once hosted.

## 6. Roundtable

Amanda asked the Committee to discuss what to include in the Annual Report to the City Council. Some examples included: 100+ trees planted at the Nursery and planning/installation of the fencing, continued work on purchasing tree guards for Main Street trees, new resources added to the website, and assistance to the Tree Warden with advice.

The Committee also discussed the status of an updated Tree Ordinance requested by the City Manager. The Committee still believes that the Ordinance is out of their ability and scope and suggests the City's lawyers create a draft based on recent updates to State requirements. The Tree Committee would then be able to make recommendations on additions, if needed. Jeff said he will bring the Committee's opinion to the City Manager.

The Committee and the Tree Warden agreed that a better monthly meeting time/location for the members will be at the 1st floor conference room at Alumni Hall, on the Second Thursdays of each month at 5:30p-6:30p, with the next meeting on January 13th, 2022.

## 7. Adjourn

Amanda made a motion to adjourn at 6:30p, Conor seconded, all in favor.