

TREE ADVISORY GROUP  
TOWN OF WESTON  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2017

Present: Co-Chairs Cynthia Chapra and Nina Danforth, Marilyn Doyle, Beth Jakubowski, Barbara Landy, Laura Perry, Ed Recka, John Skillman

Absent: Tree Warden Tom Cullen

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. There were no citizen comments.

2. The minutes of January 11, 2017 were approved.

3. Arbor Day Planting for a New Native Plant Garden at Town Hall:

Cynthia reported that the board of the Weston Garden Club approved the installation of a garden at the flagpole at Town Hall. She will obtain approval for the design from the Public Spaces Committee. Cynthia will lay out the plan, and she and Bill O'Neil will hand dig to determine the location of electric wires for the lights at the flagpole. Town Engineer. Steve Fogg, will assist in soil preparation. In advance, holes for the five trees will be dug and prepared with good soil. Thick leaf mulch will be used.

One of the five trees will be designated Arbor Day tree, to be planted WEDNESDAY, April 26. The Arbor Day ceremony will take place on Friday, April 28, at a time to be determined by the officiating selectman.

Bigelow Nurseries is the best source for our requirements. Following approval from Public Spaces Committee, Cynthia will make the necessary arrangements for purchase and delivery of the trees. Tom Cullen has given his approval for the undertaking, and he requires an invoice for same in the estimated amount of \$1,390.

Watering restrictions will be continued for the next year. The Weston Garden Club will take care of watering and care of the garden. Tom said that Dave Fava, Water Department Superintendent, would be able to provide a drip line at Case Park if we wanted it.

Cynthia graciously volunteered to write the Arbor Day article for the newspaper.

4. North Avenue Canopy Tree Suggestions:

A home owner at the proposed planting site would like to see a ground cover planted. Vinca "Bowles" and "Ralph Sugert" (with a white edge), and Carex pennsylvanica were mentioned. For choice of tree(s), the Group likes Quercus alba (white oak), the state tree. Tom Wirth said it is a most viable tree, long lived and resistant to many diseases and the vagaries of climate change. It is a beautiful, majestic tree.

It was noted that there are gas and water lines at the site.

5. Eversource Tree Replacement Plan along Scenic Roads—Nina, Imai:

Eversource will have taken out about 600 trees, mostly oak trees. They will plant 20 replacement trees where we find locations for them and have chosen the species. Two tulip trees on Newton Street

will be taken down soon. Nina put down stakes for 5 trees in the Land's Sake area. A dead elm there will be removed. A new drainage system will be installed on Newton Street. Tom Wirth recommended planting five more tulip trees in addition to those for which Nina put down five stakes. Tulip trees are long lived and most likely to withstand global warming. Eversource arborist Chris, says he can get tulip trees.

Imai and Nina saw space at a curb on Glen Road where two trees (perhaps dogwoods) could be placed. There is room for a tree on Highland Street near Route 30, and for a couple of trees inside the stone wall on Wellesley Street across from the red barn. Barbara received a suggestion for planting three trees in front of the large yew hedge in front of the Brook School apartments on School Street. Ginkgo biloba "Autumn Gold" was mentioned as a possible species. There are two Ginkgo biloba previously planted by TAG at the entrance to the apartments.

6. Case Park Update—Barbara, Beth:

Barbara stated that information on dead or distressed trees will be given to Tom Wirth who will prepare a rough proposal presenting concept first. The plan will be phased in sections at a time. Quantities will be mentioned.

Hemlocks at the site still need to be removed.

7. Other Tree News and Observations:

Laura presented an interesting article from the Boston Globe that described an MIT project to help towns locate by GIS places where trees could be planted.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Doyle