

TOWN OF WESTON
TREE ADVISORY GROUP
Minutes of February 10, 2021

ON LINE MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Lori Hess, Chair, Barbara Fullerton, Nina Danforth, Ed Recka , Jackie Jackson (DPW). Ben Pollimer, Amit Fernandes, Erika Bahrevar (assistant to Steve Fogg)

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am.

1. General: No public comments.
2. Consent agenda: Minutes approved for December, 2020 and January 2021.
3. Q1 goal progress:

A. Town projects:

i. Ash St sidewalk.: Eli Bahrevar is assisting Steve Fogg (DPW ?) with work on projects. She is in charge of change in alignment of the Ash St. sidewalk on the south side of the street. The redesign should be done by early March. The realignment of the sidewalk from the previous plan is being done in order to save as many trees as possible. There will probably be a Zoom meeting of stakeholders when the redesign is ready for discussion.

ii. Rt. 20 at Wellesley St: This is in the 25% design phase and the DOT is examining the plan for the intersection. There may be a public hearing in the spring. There will be some trees removed here for the redesign of Winsor Way.

iii. Rt. 30 reconstruction with sidewalk: This is in the 25% design phase and Mass DOT comments may come in March. The plans have a 10 ft. wide shared use path mostly on the south side of Rt. 30 that will include many trees

being removed.

B. Arbor Day on 4/30- Nina

Nina has received a list of 6 trees that were suggested to be planted at Country School by several parents. Ben Pollimer will be helping with the issue of exact location and other aspects. Nina and Lori examined the list and suggested some more appropriate trees for the location. (PDF document attached at end.??)

Ben would like to have an overview of where the trees are planted. He is in favor of Arbor Day planting and would like to see replacement of some trees that have been lost.

Nina said that we should get permission from the Select Board, the Superintendent of Schools and connect with the nursery where we can get the needed trees. Contacting them earlier is better in order to get the best selection.

Lori asked about a cut-off date for purchasing and suggested that planting earlier in the spring is better.

Nina said that Bigelow has good quality, but is a longer distance.

Ben said that Cornell has an urban tree planting document covering species to be planted.

(Jackie Jackson joined the meeting.)

C. Online education resources. Lori

i. "Right tree, right place"- We will have a resource with information about good trees and a planting guide.

D. Case Park: Lori

i. LH interviewed 3 ecological landscapers, two being professionals for sustainability (?). The TAG group will discuss their proposals after they are submitted.

E. Select Board initiatives:

i. Private Tree Working Group: Lori and Barbara. This group will be meeting soon to formulate some ideas for a tree bylaw.

ii. Public Tree Working Group: Lori. This group will also meet in a few weeks to form a draft of a town-wide survey that would assess public attitudes towards public and private trees. We want to know who is developing and clearcutting house lots; we need to collect the data.

F. Case Estate support:

i. Butternut and persimmon trees- Lori. There may be support from the CPC money to save these trees.

ii. We need a new team to work on the Case Estate initiatives, maybe volunteers from the Weston Forest & Trails. Maybe there could be a group formed "Friends of the Case Estate".

iii. Canopy Tree Planting- Ed R. - Ed suggested that we should think about a master plan for canopy trees and how they would look in 100 years. We could also backfill with trees of shorter life, such as Redbuds (80 years). Ed will make a list of suggested trees that would provide an Irish manor-type view.

G. Information Services: Balaji discussed a phone app that people can use to photograph problems in town and notify the DPW about the issue. The data can be aggregated and linked to GIS. Balaji will talk to Weston people to find out the needs and how to move forward. Amit has said that Boston has a similar app to centralize notices needed for reporting problems.

Date of next meeting: March 10, 2021 at 10 am.