

TOWN OF WESTON
TREE ADVISORY GROUP
Minutes of June 9, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 am at Case Park next to the Scout House.

Present: Lori Hess, Barbara Fullerton, Ed Recka, Carol Lee, Nicole Seddon, Ann Benning, Dennis Wu, Jackie Jackson.

1. General. No public comments. Minutes approved for Mar. 31 and April 28, 2021.

2. New members: Carol Lee, full member; Nicole Seddon, full member; Ann Benning, Associate member; Thomas Szekely, Associate member; Dennis Wu, Associate member. Introduction of everyone present.

3. Information: Lori said that there will be a cross-department meeting to discuss management of invasives in town. (Some invasives- Japanese knotweed, Black Swallow wort, Woolly Adelgid at the town green.) Jackie said there is no money in the DPW budget for the town green, but the Woolly Adelgid should be treated this year. Nicole has seen a hemlock near the playground and three on Church Street that are defoliated.

4. LH- We should elevate the stewardship causes at the Case Estates and the Town Green. We need a larger town budget to cover this; we can give recommendations to the town for what is needed, TAG has had no funding in the past. TAG can fulfill our educational mission by giving a presentation on various tree diseases. Information that has been available at webinars recently has covered sudden oak death and pine fungal disease that becomes more common with warmer temperatures and increased rainfall. TAG should have a meeting with Land's Sake to discuss the trees there during the new construction.

5. Planting of Arbor Day trees: three Hawthorne trees and a Tupelo were planted on the Legacy Trail. A goal for next year would be the management of larger scale plantings.

Dennis thinks we need more money to cover the cost of more trees. Ann suggested that we could work with Weston Forest and Trails that already has 501 C3 status and can take donations.

Municipal support for trees would include that from designation of the "right of way" tree area and a possible future tree by-law.

Ann - removal of trees can change water flow patterns.

Jackie- trees in the Town Center: Cobblestones will be placed over the soil next to the trees at Walgreens. The trees will be watered by contract for ninety days. Possibly the DPW will be in charge of watering after the ninety days.

LH- Maintenance of the trees is essential. Burke Associates is currently in charge.

6. 2022 goals and planning:

Developing policy is important as well as education.

TAG can have educational resources about trees online on the Weston website.

People start the budget planning around October. If we want to get money, we need to start early.

Tree donations would be a possible way of increasing trees, but there are many steps and we will need help.

We will continue to work on a tree by-law to try to address the removal of trees on public and private land, such as on Old Road, where many trees were removed.

We will hope to find grant opportunities for the tree work. Thomas Szekely will help with this.

We need to organize the tree information in the GPS system put together by the DPW. Amit and Belaji will work on this.

We need a plan to estimate the cost in an area where there are already many trees.

The new Conservation Commission Administrator is Jordan McCarron, who worked at Land's Sake previously. He will be organizing a meeting in the fall of many people and committees in town who are concerned with invasives and their control.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

Prepared by Barbara Fullerton