

## Tree Committee Meeting – January 25, 2020

Present: Kate Wheeler, Lee Caras, Tim Houlihan, Leslie Bryant, Ada Woolston, Neil Pederson

### AGENDA

1. **Appoint notetaker**
  - Neil volunteered & was accepted as notetaker
  
2. **Schedule next meeting**
  - much discussion; so hard to meet schedules
  - Maybe reserve a room in the Library
  - let's target Wednesdays & Thursdays, but keep the second Wednesdays and third Thursdays off the potential schedule...
  - first choice, possibly, first Wednesdays of the month
  - Next meeting: **February 5, 2020; 6:30 pm** at Kate Wheeler's house
  
3. Brief reports from members:

#### Maynard Tree Survey:

- No news yet when we commence.
- It is a matching grant by the town. Town employees give time to match Davey Tree effort
  - o Likely need volunteers
- No date for the presentation yet on the background and info regarding the survey
  - o Justin trying to contact Davey to get this going

#### Official Maynard Tree Committee; DPW committee:

- Did people get contacted by town to make it official?
  - o No!
- Is a volunteer committee under the DPW, don't have to post notes or such.
- Master Plan Steering Committee got the message via many stickies that trees are important (nice job, Kate, Lee, and folks they got to say, "Go Trees!")
- Justin reserved a spot on the committee for a student
  - o He has done school programs in the past about trees
- News prior to the meeting: Justin has just sent the proposal request to form the Maynard Tree Committee to Town Administrator Greg Johnson, for his

approval. It names proposed members. Will share hardcopy at meeting, but probably best not via email as it is not a done deal yet.

- Justin was very excited about the idea of a student or young person on the Maynard Tree Committee and has a placeholder for them in the proposal if we rustle one up. This we can talk about in our meeting.

#### Downtown Tree Plantings:

- VHB plans/ideas for downtown tree planting and the tree wells were drawn because of the vacancy at the DPW
- Got the pot shops to not simply plant, but to pay for the tree wells; DPW will plant so they will be invested as they maintain the downtown
  - o The pot shop tree planting is a part of the downtown abatement
  - o They have a landscape architect and fought to plant as many trees as we wanted (the big shop off of Main Street; the other one is smaller and are willing to plant trees).
- Justin wants to upgrade, expand, and put pervious pavement around the tree wells
- News prior to the meeting: Justin has no update on when monies from pot shops may be available for planting trees downtown (he probably won't until the shops have state go-ahead).
- Justin again said he wants to review the VHB-proposed downtown tree planting plan and change some tree choices but he hasn't yet. Now might be a good time for us all, and especially Tim and Neil, to have copies and some time to ponder the tree choices. Will have copies at meeting.

#### Tree Protection Bylaws:

- Justin envisions a meeting with the official tree committee and hashing out existing bylaws that exist already [and perhaps expand?]
- Discussion to be had on fines for tree maintenance
- Justin said they work late at night – meetings;
  - o Maybe that is the time for the Tree Committee to meet with him
  - o It will be an open meeting so everyone can attend; can/should be advertised so people have notice about the meeting
- News prior to the meeting: Justin says he has model Bylaws to circulate (as we already have) but he wants to work toward Fall Town Meeting for that adoption effort, and concentrate on tree survey and plantings now.

#### Arbor Day and Sesquicentennial Tree Planting:

- Tree needs a tree planting event on Arbor Day so we can maintain the Tree City USA designation
  - o Last year it was not independent enough from Earth Day, making it hard to be official
- Kate & Lee have bigger plans to plant more trees (yay!),
  - o Justin can get funds for one tree
  - o so to do more, we will need to raise funds
- Green Meadow Tree Planting
  - o Neil suggests protecting is important the existing trees almost over planting, suggest the new grove should be protected for that reason and because the kids love it.
  - o So, the idea is to plant near the existing trees to have an Arbor Day planting for the kids
  - o Crowe Park is an official park, so they would hope they wouldn't take more of it or remove it going forward
    - Have we accepted Community Preservation Committee (CPC) money for Crowe Park? – doesn't seem like it.
    - CPC money used for school playground
  - o Neil is saying to not give up on planting at Green Meadow for Arbor Day this year; need to engage the kids now because they will be at Fowler soon; need to plant the Tree Committee seed now (pun intended)
  - o Tim did a walk around with Josh Morse to explore low hanging fruit of how to improve Green Meadow schools, understands the history of the grove of woods
- General School Planting
  - o A lot of area around the new school that could use planting
  - o First planting was poorly done. A lot of decline since planting
  - o Something we could do – supervise tree planting; contractors do not usually a good job there
- Glenwood Cemetery Planting
  - o When dedicated as the town cemetery, had many weeping trees planted, had a gazebo, etc...All came down in the Hurricane of 1938
  - o Lacking welcoming green
  - o Want a plan to give the entrance a better welcoming
  - o Important: that intersection is a gateway to the town – Alumni Field, Boys & Girls Club, Cemetery....waiting at the light, so a place to ponder

- Planting around Alumni field is an option; Tim notes there are long-term plans in mind related to redoing the bleachers (someone fell through the bleachers); might move bleachers to 117 side
- Planting for the 150<sup>th</sup>
  - We need to come up with our own ideas about planting for the 150<sup>th</sup>.
  - Need to get Justin on board
  - The center circle of the cemetery area needs planting; was more forested in the past
  - Planted recently with an ugly bench facing the road; and weeping trees
  - Subcommittee on this: Tim, Neil [who else?]
- Acton Arboretum is doing a relabeling of their trees
  - Kate reached out for information
  - We would need to fund raise for labels
- News prior to the meeting: Justin likes May 1st, 2020 better than actual April Arbor Day date for planting to start. Almost ready to nail that down. He likes Glenwood Cemetery, named a desire for trees all along the fence, flowering trees, his idea. He says High School ok location, worries that plantings at Green Meadow Elementary and Crowe Park field next to it because they might be lost to rebuilding plans. He named a spot in Memorial Park, above the new wheelchair ramp, but there is lighting to go in first. We need to think about trees for Cemetery.

#### Contacting high school biology

- Kate contacted (someone) the head of science teachers....email still out?
- News prior to the meeting: teachers et al about student involvement in tree survey and Maynard Tree Committee membership. Both do not yet have an absolute start date, but "soon" is our hope. Ideas for youth involvement. Kate will be at High School Thursday and will see if they'll give me contact info for Biology teachers.

#### Tree Group Naming:

- Lee came up with **Maynard Tree Corps**
  - Calls back to CCC
  - Reflects more of an egalitarian phrase reflecting the town's blue collar roots, history, and continuation
  - Corp denotes action

- Friends overdone
- Hugger – no!
- Speaks for the trees – nah
- Leslie: **Maynard Urban Foresters**

### Finalize Goals by Category and Near-, Mid-, & Long-Term

- Starting with Near Term
  - Justin wants to wait to fall town meeting to officially develop bylaws
    - Too late for spring town meeting
    - We should get started soon in prep for that
    - Lee will talk to Jack McKeen on shepherding bylaws
- Social Media
  - Neil is into social media
- Develop a logo
  - Lee would like to coop the Finnish group tree logo
  - Tim knows the person who designed the Choose Kind shirt
  - The person who won the 150<sup>th</sup> design, Ginny Manion....so could have a kid's contest to develop a logo
- Organizing Goals.....
- **Near-Term Goals (weeks->Months)**
  - Finalize Supporting Tree Group Name
    - Logo
    - T-shirts & things to hand out might need to be developed for subsequent events
  - Participate in Davey Tree Survey
  - 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration starting kickoff on April 19<sup>th</sup>
    - Every 2 years the towns boundary has to be walked/surveyed, Metes & Bounds Walk
      - Kaitlin Young involved
      - Tree Committee would like to be done
    - Taking this celebration as a Tree Year – sustainability
    - Kickoff Article with the Beacon
    - Tree Walk
  - Arbor Day planting – May 1st
    - planting big, prominent trees to make a big splash/to make a statement
    - Plant a Tree at Green Meadow, Fowler, High School for Arbor Day?
    - Other Arbor Day Events (Tree Events that increase public awareness of the importance of trees aesthetically and environmentally in preserving the character and sustainability of Maynard)
      - Participate in Farmer's Market

- Tree Walks
- Setting up Tree Committee
  - Need to find a student Rep – Kate has started
- Develop Fundraising Mechanism
  - Working with Middlesex Bank
  - Need to talk to Paula Copley about how to fundraise with bank
    - Do we need to develop a non-profit?
    - This is where Sudbury Valley Trust association helps
      - Laura is looking into it; hope to know in next few weeks
  - Tim will look into on how this was done for the playground
  - Bee Meadow behind ArtSpace was done through a GoFundMe
- Develop web pages
  - Word Press
  - but FaceBook,
  - Instagram,
  - Twitter?
  - SnapChat?
- Greening of the core downtown with appropriate trees
  - Pot Shop plantings
    - Get VHB maps and plans
  - Other plantings beyond the one tree?
    - Cemetery, schools, library, Crowe Park, Maynard’s Scenic Roads
- Develop by-laws

## Preparing for next meeting

### - Near Term Events

- Finalize Supporting Tree Group Name – **Maynard Tree Corps** (Kate ping via email)
- Logo
- Greening of the core downtown
- Arbor Day planting – May 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Target Locations for more than one tree
- Beacon Article early April
  - Introducing group to town and community
  - Goals
  - Will be a town committee
- 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration starting kickoff on April 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Bounds walk?
  - Get Girl & Boy Scouts involved
    - Leslie has an in
    - Greg Stewart involved (wife Carolyn); Ben & Andrew kids

- Develop Fundraising Mechanism
- Get VHB maps and plans
- Setting up Tree Committee
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- Develop web pages - Word Press

Original Agenda for Jan 25  
meeting on next page

## Original Agenda

### Friends of Maynard Trees meeting Sat., 24 Jan at 10am

Location: Lee's house (**32 Great Road**) on **January 25th at 10 am**.

Her driveway is a shared driveway. You can also park on Allen Drive.

#### AGENDA

1. Appoint notetaker; changes to agenda
2. Schedule next meeting
3. Brief reports from members:

To save time, Kate and Lee want you to have an early report gleaned while visiting Justin DeMarco (Tree Warden/DPW Head) on Tuesday.

Maynard Tree Survey: Justin will put another call in to Davey Tree. No news yet when we commence.

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Trails Grant Neil mentioned: According to Kaitlin Young, Conservation Agent and Planning Assistant, the town not yet in compliance with an agreement on a previous conservation grant, so she has to settle that before we can return to that grant source.

More brief reports:

4. Name for group. Bring your ideas.
5. Continuing on Neil's work, finalize Goals by category and Near-, Mid-, & Long-Term.
6. Fundraising thoughts
7. Contacting high school biology teachers et al about student involvement in tree survey and Maynard Tree Committee membership. Both do not yet have an absolute start date, but "soon" is our hope. Ideas for youth involvement. Kate will be at High School Thursday and will see if they'll give me contact info for Biology teachers.
8. Anything else.

Tie things up; assign actions or projects to specific members