

**Present:** Kate Wheeler, Lee Caras, Orian Greene, Kate Wheeler, Neil Pederson, Laura Mattei, Leslie Bryant

*Absent* – Tim Houlihan, Jan Rosenberg

**General Discussion**

Sudbury Valley Trust could serve as the fiscal sponsor of the tree initiative in Maynard; collect donations that could be used to fund tree activities in Maynard; Laura Mattei, director of stewardship

Justin (DPW head & Tree Warden) said yes to forming the official tree committee;

- will see if the Town charter states anything about having a tree committee.
- Town counsel should probably be consulted. Need to clarify if committee appointments need to be made by BOS (Board of Selectmen).

Debating a name....Committee vs Friends; Friends allow freedom to raise money and such

- Maynard Tree Committee; for the government
  - o Justin going to look in to see if it is a charter with town council; then DPW can make one, a committee; doesn't need to selectmen.
- Friends of Maynard Trees??? The Friends, but official tabled until next meeting; think about it!

Melissa Ljosa (Garden Club member)...developer of the Bee Meadow behind ArtSpace;

- There is town land that is full of invasives
- Thinks the director had it leveled instead of the town
- Sculptures donated by a Maynard resident, Geoff Nelson, who works with Mass Audubon; Geoff may be someone to reach out to
- So now there is space to plant shade and bee friendly trees

Sierra Club has an article about a group that plants a tree every Sunday.

- There is a MA rep to contact
- Someone in the town chooses the site, digs the hole/prepare, then people show up and plant
- Leslie will send some info

Neil reports the beginnings of beech bark disease in the Assabet River Trail just off of Concord Ave.

- Lee says that the Davey Tree Company should inventory and note this and other things

Lee says Maynard expects the Davey Tree Company will survey ca 5000 trees - street trees, town parks, schools, ~~conservation land(?)~~

- Lee will send our group the survey grant application and Davey responses.
- Maybe Friends group could survey in the conservation land
- Contract says scope of the work will be a GIS-based survey

## **Mission/Vision Statement Discussion for The Friends group**

### **Vision Statement (draft)**

Trees are foundational to vibrant communities. Silent, active, and resilient, trees shade and cool our streets, reduce our energy consumption, clean our air and water, provide beauty that changes with the months and years, buffer our dynamic weather, add economic value to neighborhoods, gives homes to our floral and faunal residents, and when mature, give a sense of peace that enriches our lives.

The Maynard Tree Committee is dedicated to promoting a healthy and diverse population of trees that will benefit ~~the citizens~~ people of today. Trees planted today will also provide a living legacy for tomorrow's ~~residents of Maynard~~.

### **Accepted version:**

Trees are foundational to vibrant communities. Silent, active, and resilient, trees shade and cool our streets, reduce our energy consumption, clean our air and water, provide beauty that changes with the months and years, buffer our dynamic weather, add economic value to neighborhoods, gives homes to our floral and faunal residents, and when mature, give a sense of peace that enriches our lives.

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- for the committee, it might be constrained by our bylaws

## **Goals for The Friends group**

- Engage Maynard students with the importance of trees in our community, and provide hands-on opportunities for students to plant and care for trees
- Increase public awareness of the importance of trees aesthetically and environmentally in preserving the character and sustainability of Maynard by offering exhibitions, lectures, walk-about, demonstrations, etc.

- Create tree events
- Town can take trees down because 'hazardous' <- need to deal with that
- Greening of the core downtown with appropriate trees
  - Cemetery is the only National Register of Historic Properties property in Town and is owned by the Town
- Tree planting at schools, library, Crowe Park
- Develop curriculum for school
- Four Scenic Roads (grant \$\$ associated with this?)
  - Nothing ever done; make them more scenic
  - Concord Street
  - Summer from Concord to Stow Line
  - Old Marlborough Road
  - Puffer Road
- Learn about and add tags for special trees and parks
- Reach out to Wildlife Refuge and SVT for tree programs
- Make it truly worthy of Tree City USA designation
- Develop liaison with existing Maynard groups doing related work
- Develop online site & manual to educate the public
- Maintain an XX% canopy cover (determine % after Davies Survey, but would love to aim for 50%)
- Create a Tree Maintenance budget within the Town Budget:
  - Tree Removal is half the budget
  - Tree Planting is half the budget
    - Removal costs more than planting?, so 2:1 planting to removal balances?
  - People can donate to said fund or Friends of Trees Ad-hoc committee?
- Provide list of recommended species; native
- Create Commemorative Tree program
  - People can pay for trees to be planted in honor of family, friend, or pet
- Trees requested by homeowners for their yard
  - Owner cares for tree after 1 year
- Tree Nursery established in town
  - Installed costs of small trees versus commercial nursery trees is ca \$25:\$200-350 (Source: Lexington Tree Committee Tree Nursery web page; accessed 12/30/2019)
  - (Neil'd be thrilled to germinate and start seedlings in our yard!)
  - We have two'ish!!
    - South on 27 on left;
    - Cutting Tree Nursery, owned still by Cutting and overgrown
    - Composting west on Summer Street, just before the Apple Orchard; owned by Derby Orchard
      - Where composting is currently being done
      - Was a one-year Boy Scout project

- Education:
  - Organize tree lectures, walks, and events for Arbor Day
  - In-town outreach:
    - Schools – visit a class each year in all levels of schools
    - Find a teacher partner to promote town trees
    - Trees on Main Street project:
      - Trees on Main & Nason get tags with name, scientific name, year planted, circumference, and diameter at breast height (DBH), 1.3 m above the sidewalk, when planted
      - Addition of DBH allows visitors to instantly visualize how big each tree grew since the time of planting
      - Each year one class takes a downtown excursion to measure the DBH of each tree to track tree growth over time; geometry class?
- Trees Only in Maynard program
  - Citizen science program to identify and document unique species, large trees, particularly beautiful trees (architecture, autumn leaf color, flowers, etc), and potentially historic or old trees
- New street and municipal trees should be pruned and maintained on a regular cycle for a duration of \_\_\_\_\_ years. (No more planting trees only to let them die!)
- Engaging the community by teaching more residents how to plant and care for trees. These folks could then help plant around the schools.
- Developing a policy for discarding invasives. (long term)
  
- Some discussion:
  - Children’s librarian has a photographic club. As a part of Maynard shade tree program, they went out and took pictures of their favorite trees
  - So, opportunities with Library, Boys & Girls Club, ArtSpace, etc...
  - Lee: We need Tree Year as a kick off
  - Orian just bought two trees
    - Elm was 18’ tall
    - Koosa dogwood
    - Cost ca \$300 ea., \$600 to plant
  - Laura bought a resistant American Elm, grew faster than imagined.
  - Neil buys from Garden in the Woods
    - Can we partner with them?
  - Lee – can we work with the Garden Club and sell with the plant sale
    - But, also help them chose the better species
    - Community Gardeners partners with Brigham Farm to provide flowering annuals for its plant sale each May
  - Russell’s does donate trees

- Don't buy cultivars because the flowers are likely bred and not pollinator friendly
- There is a vulnerability study being conducted in Maynard; Justin, Bill Nemser, Katie, etc.
  - One of the vulnerabilities is not just damage to buildings and the river front (built landscape)
  - Ice Storm in 2018 took down many trees
  - Our trees are vulnerable and so we need a budget to help maintain the forest canopy
  - 1938 hurricane knocked many trees down; we are due again; we get microbursts and tornadoes
    - Would be a nice display in the library to educate people on events like that that will happen again.

### Wrap up:

Neil will send along notes; organizing them a bit

By-laws – meet with Justin to start them

People hate leaves!

- We have much education to do!

Lee and Kate will go to Justin

### Next meeting:

- What is the purpose of the next meeting?
  - Need a work plan; what are we trying to do
    - Choose from the goals
    - That is what we are trying to raise money for
    - Lee & Kate had talked about for the Sesquicentennial
      - Maybe raising money for tree tags and involving school kids for the trees being planted for the celebration
      - So, there is no budget for planting trees
      - Would love to see trees planted in the cemetery – planting big, prominent trees to make a big splash/to make a statement
      - Needs to be an Arbor Day planting today
- **January 25<sup>th</sup>, 10 am, 32 Great Road (Lee Caras' house);** shared driveway or park on Allen Drive
  - Organize Goals by category and Near-, Mid-, & Long-Term goals and then discuss during the next meeting
  - That will lend itself to fundraising