

April 28, 2020 Maynard Tree Corps Meeting Notes – [unproofed beyond Neil]

Maynard's 150th anniversary Planting plans [contd.]

Attending: Tim Houlihan, Neil Pederson, Kate Wheeler, Orian Greene, Steven Smith, Leslie Bryant, Lee Caras, Jodi Bebe, Jan Rosenberg

Meeting Commenced:

Meeting Leader: Kate Wheeler

Notes: Neil Pederson

Updating:

- Thanking Steve for the tree – it is donated by the Smith and Finley Realty Group
 - o Friend will load a mini excavator on the 13th of May
 - o Tree will be delivered on the 14th of May; will be dropped into the hole; will get tree to be prepped on the 15th
 - o Tree will be in the hole nice and clean for the 15th
 - o Will be 18-20' tree
 - o Need to arrange for compost; will ask guy delivering excavator to maybe throw some compost into the back of his truck
 - o Steve will get the gatorbag for the tree
- What can we do to help support it financially
 - o Not too much....pretty straightforward
 - o Maynard Tree Committee will pay for the memorial/plaque
- If we want to plant more memorial trees late this year, what is the ballpark figure on costs?
 - o Steve volunteers to dig the hole or renting an excavator
 - o If we had multiple trees to plant, maybe rent a machine a day for the day to plant ca 5 trees; more economically & time efficient
 - \$250/day for an excavator
 - Ca \$300-500 for a tree
 - Ca \$50 for compost
 - \$30-80 for a gatorbag
 - Plaque?
 - That'd be separate
 - Total for a 3.5 caliper tree, ca \$1200
 - o 8-10 trees/day is a good day's work for the town

- Smaller trees, different scale, could dig by hand
- Moving forward, Justin thought he had money for one tree, but COVID-2019 scrambles things
- Justin went to the site today
 - A drain hole nearby; DigSafe needs to check the site out
 - Justin will look down the drain to make sure everything is ok
 - Justin has gotten/will get the DigSafe process going
 - If DigSafethey will be there in 2-3 days; ought to be easy; Will likely happen by early next week
 - Need to confirm tree placement with Justin
 - We will likely need to get permission from Justin to plant the tree
 - Maybe he wants someone there to plant the tree
 - **Action:** Lee & Kate will contact Justin about timing and if there is any legalities/forms that need signing
 - Haven't needed a form; just an ok from the DPW
- Two weeks is not much notice for to invite others
 - Add plaque after the planting with all pertinent information
 - Can't invite until we have a date and have permissions
- Plaque ideas
 - Maybe a bolder with a plaque screwed onto it
 - Lee just started research on it..
 - If we have an excavator on site, maybe we ought to have a boulder on site
 - most plaques are not done well
 - Reclaimed granite so like a seat
 - Maybe DPW has some we could use
 - Couldn't the plaque be used as educational?
 - Yes, having species, DBH, and other facts, students could remeasure it each year to track growth and do various calculations
 - Small discrete plaque on back of rock with a few things on it, noting the 150th Anniversary and such
 - Could it be functional? – walk, sit, skateboard on the stone structure?
 - Is this a one-off?
 - Signage will not be done by the 15th, so something to start thinking more serious about it for the long term

- Enough in the group, artists and such- Jonathan Clark (stonework for a marker with this tree; local, has a good eye), to create something meaningful to demark trees
 - Jonathan was looking for an in-town project to teach making a wall and such
 - But he wants to do some sculpturing work incorporating elements [Native American and such]
 - He'd welcome the conversation to incorporate his stonework projects and ideas
- Like, needs to be in-scale now, but also, hopefully, when it gets to be a large, magnificent tree
 - Will need to be placed so that in the near future, for example, the branches extend over it.
 - Chat with Justin & school about placement for marker due to lawn maintenance, etc

Fundraising mechanism: w Jodi Beebe

- Generally skipped due to Steve's generosity and continued plaque discussion

Permissions for planting: Tim and Lee

- Principal Costello is thrilled about this; didn't think any more people needed to be contacted
- **Action:** Tim will follow up with Dan and see if he wants to reach out to the Superintendent or if Tim should contact the Superintendent
- An email to the school committee as a courtesy about the planting to give them a heads up

Event/ceremony planning/speaker for the trees: all

- What are our intentions for that day?
 - Acknowledge Steve's gift
 - Maynard Tree Corps' first event
 - Who will speak for the MTC
 - Neil?
 - Acknowledge the talent and commitment to trees in the group and that some people are folks who care about trees
 - Include some of the mission statement

- Jodi will reach out to the Community Gardeners and put a notice in their newsletter
 - Very overlapping group
 - Offer them to be on an email list
- Ceremonial Planting on that day?
 - Given COVID-2019, likely best to mostly plant the tree before the 15th
 - Do just a ceremonial shoveling of top compost or mulch
 - Attached the gatorbag after the ceremony
- Attendees
 - 1) Videographer (Brent Mathison)
 - 2) Dan Costello
 - 3) Student from Fowler
 - 4) The Beacon
 - Draft a press release for them
 - Include Smith and Finley Realty Group from Maynard as donors of the tree
 - 5) Board of Selectman
 - Maybe they cannot attend because they are campaigning?
 - 6) Tree Corps person A [Neil]
 - 7) Tree Corps person B [TBA]
 - 8) 150th Person (Ellen Dugan)
 - Action: Lee will get in touch
 - 9) Town A
 - 10) Town DPW
 - ?Superintendent or School Committee?
- Should we share remarks beforehand?
 - Yes, a good idea, to keep redundancy out of it
- Leslie, Jodi, Orian, Neil, etc. will draft ideas
 - Include everyone in that loop to finalize
- Not inviting people, so the press release will be written in the past tense, about an event that happened
 - Can send it to various sources after the fact

Choosing date & time for the ceremony,

- still Friday May 15th at 10 am

Next Meeting

- May 5th, 7 pm
- Zoom meeting
- Laura Mattei will set up a zoom meeting

The following items were tabled for the May 5th meeting

Postponed items from last meeting, for example, Tree List, would that be possible to release by then to public?

4. Tree List. What next? Do we need to borrow some planting instructions from Lexington Tree Manual to be part of the Tree List package online? Leads on actions:

5. Fundraising! Ideas include a program to offer residents a discounted price (depends on one of our kind wholesaling members) to purchase a tree from our Tree List for their own property. We would place the order, take a small "service fee/donation" which goes to a Maynard tree fund.

Direct appeals to businesses and individuals, is this an appropriate time to ask?

How do we define and describe our mission if we are asking SVT to hold our funds? (Kate's effort to rough draft this follows the agenda items below.)

6. Tree Manual, shall we table to 5 May meeting?

7. Maynard's Own Trees project on our webpages. Any new tree pix/stories for this ongoing project? Neil is lead contact.

8. Maynard Tree ID and ecology video talks by Neil, Brent and families, so grateful, more please and thank you! How can we support this? Neil is lead contact.

9. Happy stories, what are we planting in our gardens this spring? Where are we buying material?