

Tree Corps Meeting by Zoom 3/3/2021 5:00 PM

Present: Leslie Bryant, Neil Pederson, Lee Caras, Kate Wheeler, Orian Greene, Steve Smith, Jodi Beebe

1. Discussed "what's in" Tree Corps vs. Tree Committee. How do we communicate/share within the confines of Open Meeting regulations. Discussion of info distributed from Justin to Lee to Tree Corps.
2. Town has to apply yearly for Tree City designation. Lee stated we need to regain Tree City status which will aid in receiving grants.
3. Kate raised issue of needing bank account. Jodi has the money that was raised for prior projects. Max of \$5,000 to not have to file for 501C3 status, so we can remain unincorporated association. After much discussion it was decided that for large checks ( over \$500) we should have 3 signatories: Jodi, Kate, and Orian. It was agreed that Kate would open the account at Middlesex Savings Bank and use her mailing address. Jodi will generate the EIN from the IRS website. Jodi accepted the vote to be the group's treasurer. The possibility of SVT holding larger amounts of money for the group was discussed.
4. Action item: Set date for Arbor Day celebration. Decide on activity for celebration. Downtown vs. cemetery. Issues: downtown trees not ready yet; Justin is waiting for rain garden grant money; Steve says trees not available to be tagged yet at nursery; cemetery has money for tree planting anytime.

After much discussion it was decided that the group would explore the possibility of putting one or two trees along the rail trail behind CVS. A site at the crossing of the rail trail and Main St. was discussed; Steve thought snow at the site would be a hindrance. Kate will contact David Mark about the CVS site. Neil and others from the group will look at the site ASAP to determine appropriateness of site selection.

The group has enough money to buy a tree. Various members stated they would contribute money if needed. Steve raised the possibility of being able to get a backhoe to making the planting easier. We should have 3 species to choose among. Oak and shagbark hickory were mentioned. Steve stated we need money for hoses and watering bags as well.

Kate will first contact David Mark, then if the project looks like a "go", the group will contact Justin.

Jodi will help with advertisement/PR

Set date for May 1<sup>st</sup> (most likely)

Did the Davey Survey cover the rail trail????

Kate mentioned that group correspondence should use the words Tree Corps in the subject line to avoid confusion with Tree Committee business.

Next meeting date March 31, 2021, 5:00 PM