

Our Town Trees  
Monthly meeting  
September 24, 2018

**Present:** C. Geiser, B. Critchley, L. Davis, J. Barnett, B. Sutcliffe, B. Knight, H. Birdsall

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

**Secretary report:** The minutes from the May meeting were read and a motion to approve the minutes was made by J. Barnett and seconded by H. Burdsall. Motion passed, all in favor.

**Treasury report:** There is currently \$1,044.75 in the bank. In addition, there is \$400 from the Town budget.

**Tree Warden Report:** C. Geiser reported that Lucas Tree Trimming has been working throughout town. They have done a lot of work on Commerce St and she felt that it has been a pretty good job trimming. She also reported that she was fortunate to be present when they were at her house, and was able to stop them from working on her Japanese Lilac.

### Old Business

**A. Fundraiser wrap up:** C. Geiser thanked everyone who participated. It was a successful event! Thank you to Hugh for his beautiful note cards. Lynn reported that on Friday \$193 was donated and on \$93 on Saturday, for a total of \$286. In addition, we received \$40 from the sale of the note cards.

**B. Inventory of Grant Trees:** C. Geiser shared two lists of trees. The first was a list of the trees that we purchased with Grant funds. Of those purchased, the majority has survived; there are 50 in good shape. In addition, she will reference earlier minutes to verify the plantings, and will have a final tally for the committee. The other list was of the 18 Arbor Day trees.

**C. Tags for trees:** B. Critchley reported that she had requested some sample tags but they had not arrived in time for the meeting. The recommended tag for the Tree Walk and the Arbor Day trees will cost \$332 for the tags, with additional minimal cost for the hanging apparatus for each. There was some discussion about the cost. B. Critchley recommended these tags because of their durability and appearance. There was some discussion about the expense and it was suggested that we look for a partner to share the expense. B. Critchley will contact the Clinton Land Trust to notify them of the Tree Committee's intent to designate trees in the Elliott Preserve as a part of a Tree Walk in the Town Hall area. In addition, we will ask the Land Trust if they are willing to share part of the cost of the signs. There was also discussion about making a hard copy and digital copy of the Tree Walk and it can be shared on Facebook, the Clinton Town website, and perhaps through the Chamber of Commerce. It was also decided that there should be an informational sign posted designating the Walk and giving information about where to find the Tree Walk guide. A goal would be to have this in place for Arbor Day. B. Critchley suggested that perhaps the 2019 Arbor Day tree could be planted on the Preserve property. In addition there was discussion about the simpler tags that can be made to designate trees planted by the Committee. 100 red tags, 1.5 X 4", stamped with information to be decided via sub-committee and approved via email will cost \$82.40. J. Barnett moved to purchase these tags, and B. Sutcliffe seconded. The motion passed. H. Birdsall suggested that a letter be sent to the DPW notifying them of our plan to designate trees planted by the Committee with a tag.

**D. Route 1 planting scheme:** J. Barnett presented information about the project. Approximately 2/3rds of the area along Rt 1 has been gone over and the sub-committee will work to finish for the next meeting. Trees on the plans have been color coded, and possible areas to plant have been designated. There was also discussion about starting a "Sponsor a Tree" fundraiser. This would entail contacting businesses directly, targeting specific spaces as identified on the Planting scheme to be laid out. More information is needed to get this underway, but it was felt that it is a good idea and should be pursued.

**E. Art Show:** B. Critchley reported the Art collection date will be November 1<sup>st</sup> in the large conference room. C. Geiser and B. Sutcliffe will be at the Library for this. November 2, from 12- 5 pm will be the time for hanging the art. B. Critchley and H. Birdsall will do this. The Reception has been planned for 11/3 from 2 -4 with set up at 1 pm. Take down will be Nov. 30. B. Critchley will make up reminder slips for the artists. Publicity has gone out on Facebook and the Patch. B. Knight will remind The Harbor News to post the information. C. Geiser will notify previous artists and B. Critchley will send out another reminder.

**F. New places to plant:** C. Geiser asked that committee members look for spots on side streets in town that would be appropriate for plantings. Also, we could ask Kim about her recommendations about places to plant trees, away from the Route 1 area. In addition C. Geiser reported that the Cherry Tree purchased last Spring for the Fire House was not able to be planted at the site. While waiting for another viable spot to be determined, the tree itself had an webworm outbreak and she felt that it could not be planted. She will check with Van Wilgens about a possible replacement or reimbursement. In addition, L. Davis reported that she never heard back from the Water Company about a replacement for the Dogwood on their property. Perhaps we should just plant a tree there? Also the Bank of America property has a spot that would be appropriate, someone should check with the bank about their interest in a tree.

## **New Business**

**A.** B. Knight suggested that the committee consider hosting a meeting about the hazards of using Round Up. Currently Clinton, Eversource and the State of Connecticut use it to control weeds and overgrowth along roadways. C. Geiser suggested that perhaps this is a project for the Conservation Commission. It was decided to look into this further in the spring.

**B.** B. Critchley reported that the Food for all Garden would like to have a tree planted at the Library in memory of Gary Borgnis. The Garden would pay for the purchase of the tree. She has spoken with staff at the library and they are in favor of the planting. C. Geiser will look at the space and also will look to see if there is an appropriate tree to purchase at this time.

**C.** C. Geiser mentioned that a friend would like a tree planted in memory of Gerry Campion. She suggested that there was a good space at Hesper's Pond for a Black Gum. B. Sutcliffe may have a tree to dig up.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Critchley, secretary