

Town of Shelburne Tree Committee --- DRAFT Minutes
Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Attending: Gail Henderson-King, David Hall, Susan Dunning, Kelly Moreton. Ann Milovsoroff and Tod Warner joining at 8 pm.

1. **Call to Order** - Meeting was called to order at 7:15 after solving some Zoom link issues
2. **Consider Approval of Minutes from February 1, 2022 Meeting** - Susan made a motion to approve, Dave seconded. Approved unanimously.
3. **Citizen Participation (Opportunity for public comment on any Committee Business that is not included on this agenda)** – None
4. **Tree Work Bid** - Five bids were received for ash tree removal. Bids ranged from \$17.9K to \$47K. Multiple bids were similar/competitive. Teachers Tree Service bid the lowest and DJ's was only slightly higher. The main difference between the two bids is that DJ's has the equipment to do the work in 2 days and Teachers stated that it would require 5 days. Committee discussed the advantage of the shorter period of road/traffic disruption.

The streets that have been marked for Ash tree removal in the southeastern part of town: Dorset, Pond, Cheesefactory, and Shelburne-Hinesburg Roads.

Discussion on expanding the ash tree removal area as the current bids are lower than the remaining budget allocated in FY 2022 for this work. Dave will look into marking the following roads: Irish Hill, Bishop, Beaver Creek, Barstow, and Governor's Lane. With this additional flagging, Dave will discuss with Town Manager the feasibility of including these additional roads in this bid proposal and will proceed from there.

Landowners along the roads designated for ash tree removal will need to be notified. Gail will draft a letter, and ask Town Manager to review, that will include when the work will be done and give instructions on how to request wood +/- or chips from the trees removed along their road. Dave mentioned that the contractors were informed that wood could go to Wood4Good or a similar organization and not be left roadside.

Kelly will publish 'alerts' on Front Porch Forum and in Shelburne News when we know the dates the tree removal work will be done.

Related: Dave and Gail will meet to review tree work invoices recently received/paid to ensure that they have been recorded in the correct budget line item (Tree Conservation or EAB).

- 5. 2020 Caring for Canopy Grant** - Susan circulated to the Committee a comprehensive and detailed draft Invitation To Bid for review. Everyone was not able to review that document prior to the meeting.

Two points of information were given: nursery tree stock is expected to be extremely limited this season due to supply/demand, and the grant received is not binding as what species of trees we choose/plant. Lots of discussion about the merits of different species: native species, wildlife value. Site conditions also discussed.

It was agreed that the Committee should work towards creating a document that guides our tree planting selections. This is actually a current stated goal in our shade tree plan. It was suggested that having a discussion on the merits of varying trees including specimen tree vs native tree should be a future agenda item. Such a discussion could assist in creating a tree selection preferred list.

The time frame for this particular Invitation To Bid is to get it out in early March. Dave had some language to add to the draft: electronic bids will be accepted, add pruning to the list of maintenance responsibilities, Mon-Sat time frame for work, plantings in public parks need coordination with Parks & Recreation Department, materials chosen need approval by Tree Warden. As there were many tweaks to the draft language, Gail suggested that Susan, Dave, and she share a document outside the meeting to finalize the draft Invitation To Bid.

- 6. Arbor Day 2022 Celebration** - Due to time restraints, Gail suggested we table this topic and make it our priority topic next month. She will distribute related materials to Committee members prior to that meeting.
- 7. Public Education and Outreach / Fundraising** - Kelly will submit the article on preemptive ash tree removal this month to Shelburne News and then, after that publication, to Front Porch Forum. This article also includes information on donating to the Tree Fund.

Kelly will submit 'alerts' to Shelburne News and to Front Porch Forum about the ash tree removal work as soon as we know the dates that work will occur.

- 8. Tree Warden Report** - Horsford is giving away free trees to local schools. Dave forwarded this information to the local schools. CVU has not yet responded. SCS says they will apply and do so every year.

Discussion on the numerous ash trees along School Street. The Tree Warden advises the school on the trees on school property. The school, and their budget, maintains the trees on school property. Susan questioned whether the soil space in the 'island' between parking lot and street can support interplanting while also maintaining the current mature ash trees. Discussion on this issue and the health of some of these ash trees. Gail suggested an on-site meeting when the ash trees are in full leaf in order to better advise the school. Ann passionately stated that still functioning trees should not be removed.

9. **Other Business** - Gail shared the Final Draft of the Public Tree Management and Shade Tree Preservation Plan so that all Committee members could review/edit. There was not enough time remaining in this meeting to go over the comments/edits already submitted. Committee members were asked to send Gail their comments/edits before next meeting.
10. **February 2022 Accomplishments** - Ash tree removal Invitation to Bid was completed and released. Bids were received. Ash trees were marked along 4 primary roads in the southeastern corner of town.
11. **Adjourn** - Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes were respectively submitted by Kelly Moreton.

Approved by Shelburne Tree Committee on _____