

**Town of Shelburne Tree Committee
Minutes of May 3, 2022 Meeting**

Present: Gail Henderson-King, Dave Hall, Ann Milovsoroff, Susan Dunning, Kelly Moreton

1. **Call to Order** - Meeting was called to order by Gail at 7:08 p.m.
2. **Approval of minutes from April 5, 2022** - Correction was made on #9 of minutes: the Davis Park area discussed for potential plantings was the space between the tennis courts and Harbor Rd (not Creekside Drive). Dave made a motion to accept the correction, Ann seconded, Passed unanimously.
3. **Citizen Participation** - Kelly received the following email (to the email address that was used for Tree Committee related Front Porch Forum posts) and read the email (quoted below) to the Committee. James Bushey wrote on April 21st: *The Ash trees have been dying for decades of some other disease so if you can't cure that it doesn't make much difference whether the beetle gets them or not. There's hardly any left in a lot of the woods around Rutland County.*
Kelly will let Mr. Bushey know that his message was shared with the Committee and will thank him for his input. Gail will be copied on Kelly's reply.
4. **Ash Tree Work Update -- & Request for Bids update** - Two bids for the second round of preemptive ash removal were received. The roads included in the bid request: Barstow Rd and Governor's Lane, Bishop Road and Beaver Creek, Irish Hill from Dorset to the Laplatte bridge, southern portion of Spear Street from the Irish Hill intersection. Both bids were significantly above our \$9K budget – but both companies (DJ's and Barrett's) were asked to list what portion of the total area could be done for the \$9K amount. Their responses were received and need to be compared. Gail and Dave want to compare the responses to our ash tree inventory to assess the number of ash trees actually included in each response (as the responses designate which streets can be done) before deciding.

A brief discussion occurred about wood chips in regard to the mulching we do on the Parade Grounds. The question was asked if we/the Town should be utilizing the wood chips from these ash tree removals. Dave said that we do not have the proper storage for chips that are possibly infested with EAB larvae and that he has no trouble getting free chips and does not anticipate that will change. Therefore, storing chips is not necessary.

Gail gave an update on the other Request for Bids recently released – the Caring for Canopies grant that will enable us to plant 6 street trees. Bids were received but they were important requirement – per the grant guidelines – is that a 3-year warranty be included. This

requirement was added to the revised Request. Bids are due tomorrow, and we expect that the next round of results will be easier to compare ‘apples to apples.’

- 5. Arbor Day Celebration 2022** - We will hold a two-pronged celebration on Saturday, May 7th from 10 am.-noon. There will be tree planting and tree planting education at Bay Park – where the Committee staked out 10 tree sites last weekend – and there will be information and “Big Tree” celebration of the Atlantic White Cedar in front of the library. Hopefully, we can catch a lot of foot traffic at both sites: people using the library on Saturday as well as folks at the ballpark and people using the boat ramp, fishing, and walking trails at Bay Park. Saturday is also ‘Green Up Day’ so there will be people out and about for that as well.

The Bay Park emphasis will be on teaching tree planting and the publicity (article submitted to Shelburne News and postings on Front Porch Forum) will highlight that goal. The publicity article/posts will also let people know about the ‘Big Tree’ inventory recently posted online by VT Urban and Community Forestry Program and Shelburne’s Atlantic White Cedar that made that inventory. The cedar was festively decorated last weekend and we hope will attract attention. Committee members will be at both locations from 10-12 on Saturday to answer tree planting questions, chat about trees, and get 10 bare-root trees into the ground.

Suggestion for our calendar: Committee plan Arbor Day event in February and finalize details in March – in order to have enough lead time to publicize event.

Gail will contact Thea and others who may want to help out on Saturday, she will also go by the Town Offices to pick up tree related literature stored there and send VT UCF an email letting them know the details of our event so that they can post it on their website.

- 6. Tree Planting Selection** - Discussion occurred around having a list that we can refer to of specific species of trees we would like to plant in Shelburne. It was emphasized that once a list is created, that there has to be a commitment to keeping the information on such list updated and current. Gail shared her computer screen, and we explored the VT UCF website and their interactive tree selection tool. Discussion occurred around using this tool as ‘our list’ – as the professionals at VT UCF keep the list updated. It was agreed that the link to this tree selection tool will be included in our resource links of the shade tree plan on which we are currently working. The current hard copy edition (2019) of this tree selection guide is currently posted on our webpage.

Dave would like to have a list that we can easily access when we are offered trees or are given donations for trees – and that the VT UCF tool is a great place to steer people when they ask more general questions about what to plant in their yard or in a new development.

This conversation led to the need to have a discussion and create an inventory of not only what trees we would like to see planted in Shelburne public spaces but also create an inventory of where we think trees should be planted. This type of inventory will be especially important as we look ahead to replacing ash trees along many of our town roads and village center streets.

It was suggested that such a discussion should be an annual agenda item – creating an inventory of what/where to plant, and then keeping that inventory updated and current. It was suggested that August/September would be a good time frame for such an annual discussion as that is before budget proposals are due. This discussion will go onto the annual calendar that Susan has been creating.

- 7. Public Education and Outreach/Fundraising** - Publication of the upcoming Arbor Day event will be submitted to the Shelburne News and posted on Front Porch Forum (twice) before Saturday. Kelly will take photos on Saturday and do a follow up article/post after the event. Kelly is waiting for all the new and old memorial trees to flower in order to get photos of them in flower added to the webpage slide show.

May 22-28th is EAB Awareness Week. Kelly will take something from the VT UCF website – where there are substantial EAB Awareness Week resources - and submit to Shelburne News and post to Front Porch Forum.

Susan will contact Pierson Library to ask for a display area to be set up on the topic in the library during that week and possibly longer.

The following topic was discussed later in the meeting but falls under the topic of “Fundraising” so is noted here. A Tree Fund donation in the amount of \$200 was received from a Shelburne resident, using the Tree Fund donation form recently created and posted on our Committee webpage. Gail will send a thank you note on Tree Committee stationary to the donor, and we agreed that all donations will be included in the Committee End of Year Report – which gets included in the Town’s End of Year Report.

- 8. Tree Warden Report** - Dave said that all his report topics were covered during discussion of prior agenda items.
- 9. Other Business** - Gail announced the June 23rd tour at Shelburne Farms, which is part of the Olmsted 200 celebration that is taking place across the country. Frederick Law Olmsted’s 200th birthday anniversary was April 26, 2022. Gail mentioned a couple other events that are in the works around Vermont such as an exhibit that will be in place at the Justin Smith Morrill Homestead in Strafford, VT. More details to come.

10. April 2022 Accomplishments - Two Request for Bids released: the 2nd round of ash tree removal, and planting of 6 trees from the Caring for Canopies grant. \$200 Tree Fund donation received from Inger Dybfest for the replacement of ash trees.

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Minutes were respectively submitted by Kelly Moreton.

Approved by Shelburne Tree Committee on _____

DRAFT