

Waterbury Tree Board Minutes 10/17/23

Location: Waterbury Public Library SAL ROOM

Time: The meeting began at **5:30** PM and ran until about 7 PM

Attendees: Stuart Whitney, Barb Blauvelt, Mike Lo Schiavo, Nita Hultstrom, Marge Gulyas. Guests: Katarina Lisaius, Will Bucossi, Ian Shea

Meeting Agenda for 10/17/23

September 27 Tree Board minutes - Motion was made and minutes were approved

October 17 Meeting Agenda Approved with one change. It was recommended to change the annual tree budget for the town to \$10,000 – not \$30,000 as it was shown.

Public Comments: at 6:15 PM – Guests Katarina Lisaius, the Waterbury Recreation Director and Will Bucossi and Ian Shea Winooski Street residents. They arrived at 6:15 PM to discuss the Community Garden and the 10 fruit trees planted on June 1, 2023

Agenda

5:30 - 6:15 PM

Tree Board goals /priorities for 2024 - Maintenance is important for trees in the town.

INOCULATE ASH TREES A few large Ash trees have been inoculated by the town.

One is in Hope Cemetery. We are not certain of other inoculated Ash tree locations.

Jane noted there are two Green Ash trees on Elm Street that are about 20 -25 years old and appear healthy. They should be inoculated along with 3 very large Ash on S. Main St.

The cost is per caliper inch. Trees are inoculated every 2 years. **Action items** - 1. **Jane will contact Bill Woodruff** to remind him to budget for Ash inoculation in 2024. VT Arborists did the inoculation for the town in 2022. Need to verify location of previously inoculated trees and to begin inoculation of 3 large ASH trees on S. Main

Street. **Spring 2023** - Jane suggested that the Tree Board compose and send a letter to Community Bank and to Shaw's to inform them about EAB and its potential damage. EAB has been found close to Waterbury. They need to inoculate their Ash Trees to prevent costly removal of infected trees that may become brittle and dangerous and costly to remove.

TREE INVENTORY - Tree Board members want a better understanding and record of trees that have been planted in recent years around town.

PRUNING- Caldwell Clark has been contacted and is now providing info to be paid by the town to prune Bur Oaks 10/27 at Maple St. Cemetery. The oldest trees were planted in 2016 as 4'-6' height seedlings. The second group of seedlings were planted in 2019.

TREE CITY USA application - Discuss in November the steps to apply. Has \$10,000 been spent on trees in the previous year including volunteer hours.

GRANT - VT Urban Forestry Grant applications are due January 5 2024. There is \$500,000 available statewide. Need to discuss in November coordination with the town and priorities for tree planting and maintenance.

MULCH VOLCANOES - Railroad Street parking lot and by M and T bank. Spring 2024 Inform property owner of the negative impact of too much mulch to tree roots.

6:15 PM COMMUNITY GARDEN / FRUIT TREES We were joined by Katarina Lisaius, Waterbury Recreation Director, Will Bucossi and Ian Shea.

10 trees were planted in 2023 by the Tree Board with funding from a VT Urban and Community Forestry Grant and with help from Rec. program staff and kids in the after-school recreation program.

2023 coordination - The activities of 2023 were discussed to inform Katarina as new Recreation Director about the grant, the fruit trees and involvement of the Rec. Program kids to plant and water trees. We would like this to continue in the spirit of the grant
Plant more fruit trees - It was recommended by Will and Ian to continue planting a few more fruit trees next spring in the remaining space at the end of the line of the 2023 fruit trees. There is room for 4 trees at 25' spacing. They said that residents walk along the top of the bank above the recreation fields at Dac Row and it was felt by Ian and Will that additional trees would enhance the walking area and be attractive to residents. Once the grass grows up high people are less inclined to walk here but if trees are planted the grass will be mowed. If the town mows a path next to trees as they did in 2023 it will enhance the area for residents to continue walking there all summer.

Action items - The town may apply for a VT Urban and Community Forestry Grant to plant more trees.

Mulch - Fruit trees will need more mulch in 2024 - Katarina offered wood chips from the Town.

Coordination in 2024 - We need to get together with the Rec. Program in May 2024 to discuss actions, coordination, and maintenance needs.

Pollinator Planting Efforts have been made by a VT group to plant seed beneficial to pollinators next to the garden space used by residents. Who is doing this work? We would like to know and to better coordinate efforts out there.

Nita offered to check this out and report back.

ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned about 7 PM