

Milton Shade Tree Advisory Committee (STAC) Meeting Minutes

Thursday July 11, 2019. Location: Fuller Village Library.

Members present: Nancy Chisholm, Christine Paxhia, Carol Stocker, Jean Powers, Kristen Kleiman, and Fred Taylor

Members absent: Laura Beebe and Branch Lane, Milton Tree Warden and Ex-Officio committee member.

Called to order: 7:05 pm

Approval of minutes: Minutes from 5/21/2019 approved as amended. **Fred will submit to Town Clerk**

Tree planting plans for the redesign of the expressway overpass at East Milton Square. Branch unable to attend meeting so no update on his communication with Selectboard.

Neighborhood Association meeting. Laura contacted the meeting organizers and got us on the schedule for July 23. Fred and Kristen will attend to present information on the loss of town trees, to encourage use of the tree request form at the DPW web page, and to volunteer to meet with individual neighborhood groups. Other members of STAC are welcome to join in. Christine will try to get information posted on the Milton Neighbors Facebook page. **Fred will send meeting details.**

DPW tree planting program: This year's "spring" tree planting seems to have been completed at the end of June/beginning of July. It may have been done by summer college employees, but we don't have the details and the tree planting sites have not yet been uploaded to the DPW database. The DPW watering truck was seen filling gator bags on Gulliver Street this week, although only for the newest plantings, skipping the gator bags at last year's trees. Luckily it has been a very wet spring and most of the new trees appear to be thriving. Fred has started entering last fall's planting into an inventory update and will continue with the spring plantings when the data is available. It was noted that a tree planted in front of the Unitarian Church is leaning and Nancy has emailed Chase about the problem. Nancy presented a tree care guide from another town that she proposed attaching to new trees before they go out. We also discussed again the need to put tall trees where there are no overhead wires and short trees where there are wires. This does not appear to be happening reliably and we could help by pre-marking the new trees at the DPW yard as wires/no wires. **Nancy will email Chase about the concerns we discussed.**

Arbor Day at Wakefield Estate: Jean contacted Erica at the Wakefield Estate to find out if we could have the Arbor Day event during Dogwood Days, since the Earth Day event in April is usually chilly and poorly attended, however the issue was not resolved. We discussed having the DPW put aside one of the trees purchased in the fall for us to plant in a ceremony in the spring at a public spot such as a park or the town green. **More planning required.**

Emerald Ash Borer Monitoring: Laura created a flyer which Nancy and Fred distributed on Mark Lane and Heather Drive at houses with ash trees in front. As a result Jamie Panucci at 5 Mark Lane volunteered to host a trap. Fred hoisted a trap into her tree in June. Fred also put up a trap in a grove of ash tree in the woods along Pine Tree Brook near Blue Hills Parkway. **Fred will be taking down traps mid-August and inspect for EAB.**

Tree remediation planting at Conneely site on Hillside and Parkwood. Two newly planted oak trees are not doing well should be replaced. Carol contacted the president of the Hillside Association, since they have been given responsibility to monitor the site, however he was unwilling to take action until he had more official authorization of the health of the trees. **STAC decided to have Nancy contact Bill Clark and Branch Lane to make sure the bond payment is withheld until the developer or his landscaper addresses the issue.** Carol also raised a concern over whether the irrigation system is being used by the new homeowners. **Carol will try to make contact with them through the neighborhood association.**

Next meeting: Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday September 10 at 7 pm in Fuller Village Library. **Could put out a Doodle poll to make sure Branch and others can attend?**

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.