

Tree Board Minutes 9/18/18

Present: Margay Blackman, Tony Scime, Tim Kewin, Melissa Rivelis, Chris Collier, Rick Lair

Chris, who has officially resigned from the tree board, attended the meeting to present the minutes from the May meeting, but we did not have a quorum to approve them. Margay will get an electronic copy for us to approve at the October meeting. Chris turned in a check for \$165.?? from donation jars and provided the following list of merchants who are currently hosting tree donation jars. Do we want to expand this list?

Arjuna
Jimmy Z's
Light Ways
Lift Bridge Books
Java Junction
Crossroads Hair Salon
Grinds
Sara's Garden Center

Election of Officers

We need the following: Chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer. Nominations and vote postponed until next meeting. Margay is temporarily serving as chair/secretary.

Lori Staubitz as ex officio member. Lori has been very active as an attendee of our TB meetings for over a year, inaugurated "Celebration Forest," a fund raising effort to raise awareness of the importance of the forestation of our community and to fund the purchase of trees. Lori has been an invaluable advocate for Brockport's trees and a contributor to our Tree Board. Ex-officio membership was unanimously endorsed even though we did not have an official quorum. The issue will be revisited at our next meeting.

Summary of Urban Forestry Grant submitted in May. We should hear about the grant by the end of the year. Included were tree plantings on Holley Street, tree pruning workshops for DPW and citizen pruners, and an update to the TB webpage.

The Database Issue. We had hoped to include a new tree inventory and different database in our grant application but that would be a separate grant application which we could do next year. Margay's notes from the ArborPro webinar 5/15/18 were included with the agenda and are attached here. ArborPro is the database recommended by the Computer Science student interns last spring. Both the Tree Board and DPW viewed the webinar.

Rick noted that the College had its trees on a database that might be shareable (i.e. the village could use it as well). Thought it might be ArborPro and will check with John Osowski.

Market Street Trees issue and its resolution The likelihood of tree removals on Market Street was discussed. When the issue came up this summer, it and responses to it went viral on Facebook; Channel 8 came to Brockport and interviewed concerned merchants and the mayor. Margay's explanatory letter in the Suburban News was included with the meeting agenda and is attached here. We discussed replacement trees and having a landscaping plan with species selected before any removals take place.

Trees discussed:

Columnar trees (e.g. columnar white oak, hornbeam)—their roots will also raise sidewalks. Hornbeams get full at the bottom
Gingkos—don't raise sidewalks
Serviceberry—wouldn't raise the sidewalk

Rick noted that the college tried a small section of permeable sidewalk but it didn't last three years.

Structured soils (patented by Cornell) might be a good idea

Tree requests—issues and resolution Tree requests don't always come to the tree board, but may go to DPW and possibly might not make it to the tree board. That happened with a request from 10 South Avenue for two trees that was made last year. DPW couldn't find a record of it.

Best solution would be for the request form to be online so that it is downloaded at Village Hall and is then forwarded directly to the Tree Board. After the tree board has consulted with the requestor and selected an appropriate tree species, signing off on the form, it would go to DPW who would review it and sign off on it. A member of the tree board always consults with the requestor to select an appropriate tree.

Ash trees in Sweden It was mentioned that Sweden is removing ash trees in the right of way due to the EAB. We need to think of ash trees needing removal. 5 have already been removed from Corbett Park, and a Park Improvement Grant that we've applied for calls for the removal of three ash trees in the park. There are a number of others that are street trees. Margay and Harry inspected one on Cherry Drive (doesn't need to come out yet).