

Tree Board Meeting Minutes (Approved)

Tuesday, October 15, 2013
49 State Street (Village Hall), Brockport, NY 14420

Attendance: C. Blount, H. Heyen, M. Blackman, Mayor & Village Board liaison, Chris Collier, Sandy Cain, Kathy Goetz, Rick Lair, Tom Nelson

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by M. Blackman.

Minutes: After corrections to the September meeting minutes, motion was made by H. Heyen, seconded by K. Goetz, to approve the September meeting minutes; passed unanimously.

Treasury/Donation Jars Report: Due to the absence of J. Morris, there was no Treasury Report. Chris and Sandy reported collecting \$150.90 from the donation jars for the July-August-September period, and the money was turned in to Leslie Morelli. Sandy drafted a letter of gratitude to be sent to Dr. Raff for his generous personal matching of donations collected from the jar in his office. Margay suggested the draft letter be given to Leslie for typing on Village letterhead along with names of the co-chairs of the Tree Jars Collections (Chris and Sandy), and to include the names of other businesses so that letters of gratitude can be sent to them also, such as Adore Hair Studio. Chris will also get jars from Kathy to deliver to some newly interested businesses who wish to display them such as Maxwell Thayer.

Discussion: Agenda Topics

Fall Tree Order:

- Ian says there are two new trees to be planted for this Fall. One requested street tree replacement for Dean Westcott at 25 Glendale Rd. and one street tree replacement on Main Street following vandalism to a pre-existing Gingko tree that was planted during the Main Street reconstruction project. Arrangements for the planting will be made with Harry Donahue. Money to pay for the trees comes out of donations made by the public. Margay will e-mail how much money is in this donation fund.

South Avenue Tree Removals:

- Hanny made a motion, seconded by Kathy, to remove the Walnut tree on the eastern boundary of the South Avenue Park; passed unanimously. Hanny also said she will make a motion to remove this tree at the Parks Committee meeting and it will be taken down hopefully in the Fall or no later than Winter. Margay suggested that Ian check with Harry Donahue as to whether the tree can be donated to someone who can make something out of its wood.

Andy Pleninger's Reinventory of Trees:

- There was discussion about the reinventory of trees that will be done by Andy again. Margay said that this inventory should be done every 6-8 years, and that Andy will give Ian a log-in access to Arborware so he can access information. Tom expressed interest in going with Andy as he does the inventory. Margay thought the project was to begin this week and that it will take a few weeks to complete.

Announcement of DEC Grants for 2014:

- Margay reported that the DEC grants are available and we can apply for more than one grant. Hanny said it would be great to go in with the Town of Sweden to do this grant because more is gained when there is a collaboration. Collaborative grants between municipalities get more attention. December 5 is submission date deadline.
- The Citizen Pruner Grant: Margay would like to submit an application for this grant. She will send a link to everyone on the tree maintenance grants. We could get help from Andy Pleninger on this. We should apply for a planting grant on South Avenue and maintenance grant too. Hanny made a motion, seconded by Tom, to apply for these grants; passed unanimously. We will ask Andy to meet with us to give us suggestions on how to rough it out. Maybe he can meet with us when he is doing the inventory. There also needs to be a board resolution done at the November 4 Village Board meeting in this regard.

Arbor Day Planting:

- Rick suggests that we wait for Andy's tree re-inventory first before deciding where to plant this year.
- All trees will be bought out of donations budget this year.
- Hanny suggests a press release be issued to raise interest in donations. Margay added that a letter should be done to Dean Westcott expressing hope that he is happy with his new tree and informing him that the tree was provided from donation funds.
- Hanny suggested asking the Village for shade tree funds.

National Grid Photo-Op:

- We get a \$50 refund from National Grid for every recommended kind of tree for planting beneath utility lines in the village. Reps from National Grid will be attending the November 4 Village Board meeting. It was suggested that Ian should also be there for this event. It was also suggested that perhaps reporter Caurie Putnam could write an article on what the Tree Board has accomplished.

Discussion on E-mail/ Meeting Time Minute Approvals:

- Discussion simply related to whether it was acceptable or "good form" to approve minutes via e-mail after a meeting had occurred where there was no quorum, but those who were present approved them. Meeting minutes will ultimately be approved at regular meetings however, so unapproved minutes due to a lack of a quorum will hold until the following meeting with a full quorum for approval.

Tree Board Meeting Minutes, October 15, 2013, con't.

Increasing the Visibility of the Tree Board and Its Mission:

- Discussion indicated agreement that we need to think of additional ways to make its functions more visible. Suggestions were made to provide more educational opportunities about trees and the Committee through the Brockport school district, as has been done with Buck Noble's class. Also suggested was a tree nursery perhaps to be tended by cub scouts or school students – and more tree walks such as we did with Norm Frisch. Additional ideas: establish partnerships with other communities such as Medina. Check out their website for their tree planting efforts; for example, they have a committee member who handles memorial tree plantings and they have their own tree crew within their Highway Department. They got a Growth Award under Tree City USA. Sandy volunteered to check into the Tree City USA Tree Growth program so we may be able to avail ourselves of information for our own endeavors. Please think about new ideas to be discussed at our November meeting.

Website Update and Redesign:

- For our next meeting, everyone take a look at our website and give ideas for changes. Discussion also followed as to who could help in the redesign.

Other: Tom has the name of another person who has expressed interest in joining the Tree Board Committee.

Adjournment:

Moved by Chris, seconded by Kathy, and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Cheryl Blount, Secretary