

## **Tree Board Meeting Minutes** (approved)

Tuesday, September 16, 2014  
49 State Street (Village Hall), Brockport, NY 14420

**Attendance:** Ian Blount, Chairman; Margay Blackman, Cheryl Blount, Chris Collier, Kathy Goetz, Sandy Cain, Jackie Morris

Ian called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Minutes:** Motion by Cheryl, seconded by Kathy to accept the May 20, 2014 minutes as corrected; passed unanimously.

### **Donation Jars Report/Treasury Report:**

Ian reported that he was able to contact Dan Hendricks, who said there was \$2,854.37 in the Tree Board treasury. The general fund budget shows \$1,500 for the purchase of trees specifically.

Chris reported jar collections as follows: July 16 - \$36.30; August 20 - \$50.44; September 15 - \$63.25. She also reported that \$30.00 was taken in for t-shirt sales at the Different Path Gallery. Also, Seaward Candies and the Brockport Diner no longer keep the jars in the front at the register because some people were confusing their purpose and thought they were for tips for the employees there.

### **Discussion: Agenda Topics**

#### **National Grid:**

**Tree Trimming Assessment:** Ian reported that a meeting was held in the Village Hall followed by a tour of some of the trimmed village street trees on July 25 with National Grid representatives Laurie Mastin and Jack Feltz. There have been many complaints and concerns about the manner in which Nelson trimmed the trees in the village. However, National Grid legitimized the cuts. The trimmings appear dramatic due to the distance required from the wires, but the cuts themselves are correct and the trees technically are not topped based on what National Grid revealed about the job. Andy Pleninger from Urban Forestry LLC, who is conducting the village tree reinventory has found several trees within the village that have been over compromised due to the trimming and should be removed however. Margay offered to compose a letter to go back to National Grid regarding the issue involving the trees that have been over compromised due to the trimming. All agreed for Margay to go forth with the letter. She will draft the letter and distribute it to all members via e-mail. Andy Pleninger may attend one of the next Tree Board meetings and can help with the analysis for the letter as well. One major decision agreed upon is that we need to pay even more attention going forward to what we plant in adjacent to utility lines. Even though we have been following guidelines from National Grid as to what is recommended to be planted, the list of recommended tree species needs to be fine-tuned and the Tree Board will be more vigilant regarding siting of tree species in the future.

**Reimbursement from 2013 Plantings:** Ian reported that we received \$350 in reimbursements from National Grid for 7 trees that were planted under wires for the 2013 planting season.

**Photo-Op:** Ian said that Jeff Harrington of National Grid will be at our next meeting for a photo-op for reimbursements presenting a large foam board check in the amount of the \$350 as part of National Grid's "10,000 Trees and Growing!" program.

**Tree Inventory Update:** Ian reports that Andy Pleninger is almost finished with the inventory. He expects it to be complete by November. Andy said 69 trees must be removed after what National Grid did to compromise them by the recent trimming. Also, many trees added or taken down had not been recorded since the last inventory was done. Ian has spoken with Andy to attend one of our meetings. The November meeting might be a good one to have him review the inventory results with the Tree Board. Ian will contact Andy to confirm an upcoming meeting he can come to.

**Tree Vandalism:** More tree vandalism has occurred on Erie Street. A Horse Chestnut tree and a Ginkgo tree in front of Patty Good's house are the casualties. The Horse Chestnut at this point is salvageable, the Ginkgo tree is not and will have to be replaced.

**Future Arbor Day Tree Plantings for South Avenue Extension:** Discussion about plantings for the South Avenue Extension is tabled till the October meeting.

**October Show and Sale at Different Path Gallery:** Ian reported that the show and sale of the Brockport Artists' Guild at A Different Path Gallery takes place October 3-31. One of the contributing artists, Richard Hart, is donating any sales he makes to donate a tree in memory of Jean Sozio. When asked by Mr. Hart of a price to set for the total cost for the donation of a tree, Ian recommended to him \$250 as an expected cost of a good tree.

**Miscellaneous/Other news:**

**Resignation of Hanny Heyen:** Ian reported, with regret, that as everyone probably already knows, Hanny Heyen has resigned her member seat from the Tree Board effective immediately. All shared the best of wishes to Hanny, and the most sincere appreciation to her for all her years of service and contributions to this board.

**Future Vacancies:** Ian also announced that he will not seek re-appointment to the Tree Board after completion of his present term, which terminates in August 2015. Cheryl Blount, who is currently fulfilling the prior term of Jo Matela, also will not seek re-appointment after June 2015.

**Current Vacancies:** There are currently two vacancies on the Tree Board that will need to be filled as well. There was discussion about recruitment of new members. Several good possibilities were offered.

**Adjournment:**

Ian called for a motion to adjourn. Moved by Sandy and seconded by Chris, passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Cheryl Blount, Secretary

**Next meeting date: Tuesday, October 21, 2014**