

VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING  
Advisory Committee to Develop a Tree Ordinance and Tree Management Plan

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**Committee Members:** Jennifer Zwarich (Chair), Mary Saari, Stephanie Hawkins, Kory Riesterer, Charles Hustis, Richard Weissbrod, Dana Bol, Donald MacDonald, Kathleen Foley, Rich Franco, Tony Bardes

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06/09/2014  
MEETING MINUTES

7:30 PM Village Hall

Present: Kory Riesterer, Mary Saari, Dana Bol, Tony Bardes, Kathleen Foley, Stephanie Hawkins, Jennifer Zwarich

Absent: Rich Franco, Donald MacDonald, Charles Hustis, Richard Weissbrod

Meeting began at 7:30

1) Stephanie provided updated drafts of the ordinance, now proposed to be called "Public Tree Law," which consists of only sections 122-1 thru 122-3. The former sections 122-4 and 122-5 have been severed from our draft and excluded from our consideration but will be passed along to the Trustees for their information.

2) We went over the ordinance line-by-line, noting changes needed and also noting areas where there were clarifications needed by the attorney. There were numerous items discussed, the main points being:

--discussion of need to make very clear the definition of public tree, and to simplify and unify all references to the concept throughout the document as "public tree" (rather than village tree, etc).

--there was a question about what constitutes a public "nuisance" and who currently has the authority to judge this in village government. Need to ask the attorney to clarify this in the document.

--discussion of how many members of the Tree Commission (3 or 5) to specify.

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Some suggested having only 3 would keep it simple and ensure that the positions are filled with qualified people (there was a worry that there would not be enough interest to sustain a 5 member body). Others noted that a greater breadth of experience, views and expertise would be more likely represented by a 5 member group and that the volunteer workload would be heavy enough to require the committed work of a 5 member board to manage it. The need for a quorum to conduct business likewise makes 5 a more workable number, and more likely to enable the Tree Commission to conduct business even with the occasional absence of a member at a meeting. An informal poll was taken of the group and all present agreed to 5 members.

--The chairperson should appoint duties as needed by the Tree Management Plan

-A Trustee liaison to the Tree Commission and Highway dept, etc needs to be specified more clearly in section G (H) as a single liaison.

--Sidewalk repair section needed

--Utility company section should be simple and encouraging of good communication and a good working relationship. Requiring permits seems ill-advised and unnecessarily complicated. Compare to other ordinances and rework this section.

We ran out of time and will continue discussion at next meeting.

Stephanie will contact the attorney and provide answers to our additional questions. Dana and Kathleen will present their research with New Paltz and

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Ithaca next time and we will discuss Rich's interview with Saugerties and feedback then as well.

Adjourned 9:02.