

TREE ADVISORY BOARD
VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING

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MEMBERS: TONY BARDES; CHARLES DAY; KORY RIESTERER; GORDON ROBERTSON; JENNIFER ZWARICH

04/22/2015

MEETING MINUTES

8:00 Village Hall

Present: Tony Bardes, Charles Day, Kory Riesterer, Gordon Robertson, Jennifer Zwarich.

Absent: none

Summary:

Meeting opened at 8:00pm.

Introductions and welcome of new TAB member Gordon Robertson.

Motion made to approve 3/25 meeting minutes. Motion carried by vote of 4-0, G. Robertson abstained as he was not present for 3/25 meeting.

Village Arbor Day celebration preparations discussed. J. Zwarich reported that highway crew had dug out and prepped two tree pits. T. Bardes reported he'd secured two trees and planned to plant in next two days. All labor involved is volunteer. Donated mulch would also be supplied. K. Riesterer reported boy and girl scouts would be on hand for ceremony. Village trustees and mayor expected to attend, mayor to read arbor day proclamation. Brief discussion re: Sunoco tree pit – pit was widened to accommodate future landscape plantings, J. Zwarich to provide and install later. G. Robertson asked about soil prep and C. Day and others briefly discussed current recommendations that no root barriers or major soil amendments be done in order to encourage root growth to extend into existing soil. Previous practice often resulted in root bound trees. Current practice to add only mycorrhizal fungi, not organic matter as in past. J. Zwarich noted that DEC arborist consultant also recommends no staking to encourage stronger growth of trunk. G. Robertson mentioned idea next year of bumper stickers, banner, etc. with village arbor day design. This year given short notice printouts of fun tree facts and arbor day signs will go up for celebration.

Discussion of **TAB bylaws draft**, circulated prior to meeting via e-mail by J. Zwarich. Minor changes made (Chairman changed to Chairperson) and appendix 1 added. Board briefly reviewed changes. Comments as follows:

- There is no timeline for bylaws, it is not a law but an internal document, village lawyer does not have to review.
- G. Robertson raised question of whether ethics section is needed, as village ethics already govern TAB. J. Zwarich will ask Mary Saari, Village Clerk, for copy of village ethics and investigate if this supersedes anything TAB has in its bylaws. J. Zwarich noted she'd been advised by other area tree boards to include an ethics section in bylaws.
- Section 6-3 of bylaws "Meeting Attendance" discussed. Agreed by vote of 5-0 that 75% attendance was appropriate, with consideration given to project work done outside of formal meeting times as counting towards 'attendance'. Any member in breach of 75% attendance can't be formally removed by TAB but only upon recommendation of the TAB to Village Board, who may exercise that right.

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- T. Bardes raised issue of proxy votes via phone/e-mail and discussion ensued. G. Robertson recommended TAB specify this in bylaws; proxies do not count towards a quorum. Idea to print a standard proxy form on meeting agendas. If proxy given to another member that member may cast that additional vote as he/she desires and not necessarily as desired by the person giving that proxy. J. Zwarich will investigate possibility of adding proxy section to bylaws.
- J. Zwarich noted that village public tree law supersedes any TAB bylaws. She will amend bylaws as discussed and TAB will vote on them at next meeting.

Continued planning/prioritizing of TAB work discussed.

- a) J. Zwarich asked members to login and review the online **tree inventory map**. She will give a brief tutorial at next meeting of map and free iPhone app that allows for easy longitude/latitude input to merge with current database when updating inventory.
- b) Members also asked to review **Tree Management Plan** (TMP) draft before next meeting, especially priorities for five year plan at end of document. Work on the plan shall be divided amongst members; TMP should reflect realistically achievable goals of TAB. Some ideas mentioned were tree pit beautification on Main street (for health of trees) and future sidewalk work as opportunity to widen existing pits. G. Robertson requested CHA Design engineering plans for sidewalk work which J. Zwarich will circulate to members for review. She noted that every removal of sidewalk near tree pits must be replaced with structural soil before closing job. TMP Draft exists on village website.
- c) As part of TMP, **Tree Nursery Plan** also requires updating. Brief discussion of nursery location and realistic use ensued. C. Day was elected Tree Nursery Manager at previous meeting. TAB determined to meet at some point during next month at **tree nursery to tour** state of tree stock currently there: hedge maples, oaks, few pines. Other potential nursery locations mentioned were Water Treatment Plant and village owned lot on corner of B Street and Mountain Ave. Length of use of current space was brought into question as it is privately owned. J. Zwarich will e-mail combo lock to TAB members.

K. Riesterer reported on discussion she'd had with Richard Shea regarding trees behind Haldane High School. Trees originally intended for stewarding by **Haldane Eco-Clubs**. It was determined TAB members would take a look at trees following Arbor Day celebration to determine which, if any, might be suitable street trees. C. Day mentioned that root pruning should happen now, in spring, if necessary. K. Riesterer reported interest by Middle School science teachers to involve students in planting these trees in village tree pits or on the Haldane campus.

G. Robertson mentioned **village composters** as potential source of revenue depending on number still held by village, or as give-aways to individuals making donations. J. Zwarich will ask village clerk for status of composters.

Tree line item in village budget was briefly discussed: \$3,000 for tree removal and maintenance. G. Robertson raised issue of separating TAB fundraising from village line item in the budget. How will TAB earmark donations/fundraising for specific projects so these funds are not appropriated for general village tree maintenance/removal? Village Board must approve such earmarks and potentially cap amounts. This will require careful planning on part of TAB. Discussion of specific **budget items** was deferred until next meeting.

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Future fundraising ideas were brought up as funding was noted by all to be the most important aspect of TAB. T. Bardes mentioned getting local businesses involved in sponsoring trees; G. Robertson mentioned park benches as another potential source of revenue. He also mentioned larger fundraising events reminiscent of the "Lilac Ball" that used to be held and along lines of Haldane School Foundations events. Bigger events with silent auctions twice a year bring in more revenue than smaller 'bake sale' style fundraisers. It was noted that trees are apolitical (!) and should bring communities together.

J. Zwarich read a memo from Village Board stating that no liaison to TAB would be assigned but that it would be responsibility of TAB to communicate regularly to the Board. TAB determined it would send monthly minutes to the trustees and keep them abreast of important work developments.

J. Zwarich also read a memo from the mayor requesting recommendations ASAP for **new replacement street trees** regarding three mature trees that will be taken down during the DEC Boat Club tar removal project. C. Day will take a look at the existing trees this week to determine cultivar, DBH, and approximate age. G. Robertson explained he could donate professional services for calculating replacement value of these trees. C. Day recommended replacing with Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), as they are very good in flood zones, being extremely water tolerant. J. Zwarich will visit site as well to see other restrictions (overhead wires, pavement, drainage etc).

Focus of next meeting will be on a detailed combing through of the Draft Tree Management Plan and beginning the process of creating a finished plan with prioritized action items.

There were no comments received from the public.

Motion to adjourn meeting passed at 9:54 pm.