

**TREE ADVISORY BOARD**  
**VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING**

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

05/27/2015

MEETING MINUTES

8:00 Village Hall

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

Absent: Charles Day

Summary:

Meeting opened at 8:00pm.

Motion made to approve 4/22 meeting minutes. Motion carried by vote of 4-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion began around **newly planted Main St. tree** in front of C&E and its signs of stress. Everyone agreed to remain in a 'holding pattern', possibly even until next spring, to wait and see if the tree will recover. It was noted that the brief heat wave that struck shortly after planting both London Plane trees for Arbor Day may have played a role. The tree in front of Sunoco is recovering better than the one in front of C&E. Both trees are being watered regularly. TAB member C. Day volunteered by e-mail to take a look at it and consult with an arborist he knows at his workplace.

Discussion continued with J. Zwarich updating members about **Main St. tree holiday light removal** and her conversation with the chamber. Cedar Hill Landscaping originally installed the lights 2 years ago free of charge but will now charge \$395 to remove them and require someone to spot the ladder during the procedure. TAB discussed liability issues if someone from village holds the ladder, who will cover cost of removal, and amending Tree Ordinance guidelines to cover issues such as this in future. G. Robertson volunteered to speak to members of the chamber again to discuss before TAB brings this before Village Trustees for discussion.

The recent **Parrott/Bank Street limb breakage** was also discussed. T. Bardes will contact Garrison Tree to see if an arborist would look at the tree informally to help assess overall health. J. Zwarich volunteered to speak with Central Hudson about pruning/removal – only if necessary - given that the tree is under their wires. G. Robertson asked if the village had a list of arborists they've used in past for consulting/work and it was determined this has been ad hoc in past but typically the village asks for bids on work over a certain amount of \$. J. Zwarich will compile a list of arborists in future that TAB can turn to. It was noted TAB should publicly acknowledge any volunteer work that happens, in local papers etc.

Along lines of acknowledgement, TAB discussed T. Bardes' **"Tree Steward Business"** award idea, that business owners who do a particularly fine job caring for trees and tree pits outside their place of business receive a certificate to place in their windows letting the community know that TAB appreciates their efforts. J. Zwarich will create a certificate template. It was determined that Susan Early of C&E be awarded the first certificate given her work caring for the new Arbor Day trees. TAB members all reiterated the need for an

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official 'Thank You' system for donations in general, be it on a web page or in the papers. K. Riesterer suggested perhaps once a year running an ad in the papers listing all the names of donors/volunteers like the Fire Co. does for its annual appeal.

As per C. Day's e-mail, **meeting date conflicts** were discussed: 9/23 Yom Kippur and 11/25 evening before Thanksgiving. J. Zwarich will e-mail members new dates for approval.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

K. Riesterer briefly updated TAB about the **Haldane trees**. She and C. Day root pruned 3 trees that should be available for planting this fall (2 cherries and 1 maple). Trees severely damaged by deer were salvaged by cutting back to one healthy sucker/leader. C. Day hopes that in 2-3 years these suckers will turn into trees TAB can plant in street pits given their vigorous root stock. Richard Shea has given TAB authority to maintain these trees but would like to be notified when/where eventual planting takes place. The Haldane 'tree nursery' behind the High School will need monitoring this summer – new sucker growth cut back, root pruned trees watered during dry spells, and the fence rebuilt to prevent further deer damage. Haldane's 6<sup>th</sup> grade Eco Class was brought to the site to help water/weed around the trees and given a mini lesson in deer damage and salvaging the trees.

J. Zwarich briefly updated TAB about the **Boat Club trees** and the valuation report G. Robertson acquired for Trustees. The Mayor has all needed info now and will report back to TAB if other questions arise.

**TAB bylaws** discussion was continued from last meeting and minor changes noted. J. Zwarich added an appendix to the bylaws with an excerpt from the village ethics code and passed out a copy of the full code to all TAB members. According to TAB bylaws TAB will first discuss ethical breaches as a board and then refer any recommendations made to the Village Trustees who will then refer the matter to the village Board of Ethics according to village code. Motion was made to adopt Draft 3 of the bylaws and seconded by T. Bardes. The bylaws were adopted by a vote of 4-0. J. Zwarich will file a copy of the bylaws document with the village clerk in accordance with the Public Tree Law of the village code.

J. Zwarich reported that Village Clerk Mary Saari is working on adding a **separate line item** to the village **budget** for tree donations in order to earmark TAB fundraising/donations/grants so tree funds are not appropriated for other costs. Currently the village budget contains \$3,000 for tree maintenance, removal and replacement. These funds do not carryover year to year if not used. It was mentioned that Tim Greco and family recently donated \$100, which will go into the new donation line item along with \$300 in funds originally earmarked for village cemetery maintenance but now moved to village trees upon formal request of the original donors. J. Zwarich reminded everyone that starting next year in February TAB will determine and present a plan for fund allocation for tree work for that fiscal year to the Village Trustees. Maintenance work for the remainder of this year will proceed according to priority items in the Tree Management Plan as soon as the 2011 inventory is brought up to date.

G. Robertson asked if there were any updates re: **village sidewalk work** and J. Zwarich said she'd find out what the current status was on new tree pits as they relate to future sidewalk repairs. In the last sidewalk work draft she'd seen there were no provisions in place for tree pit borders, just for cutting pits. J. Zwarich reported that she was researching **tree pit borders** and looking for a cost effective, uniform model for village trees,

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such as Belgian Blocks or metal tree guards/fencing like the types used in NYC. G. Robertson raised the idea of scavenging for these or of making metal guards in-house over the winter months if materials and tools were provided to the HWY dept. given the beautiful job they've done in past constructing village benches etc. TAB discussed covering costs by attaching a small plaque to the metal guard similar to plaques on benches, to be sponsored by local businesses, or in honor of village residents, etc.

Discussion naturally followed to how new **parking lines** on Main St. would affect tree pit borders and J. Zwarich reported she'd already had an informal discussion with the new Village Parking Chair Anthony Phillips about this. Issues of where car doors will open in relation to tree locations as new lines are drawn will depend in part on sidewalk repair too. G. Robertson noted in terms of existing infrastructure that painted parking lines are temporary but trees are permanent. He also raised the issue of liability in terms of tree pit borders as trip hazards in the village. J. Zwarich said she'd like to fundraise to add a pit border to the new Sunoco tree this year since the grade of that space is particularly prone to mulch runoff and will not be a site of sidewalk work during the Main St sidewalk grant project.

J. Zwarich passed out copies of the **draft Tree Management Plan** and laid out plans for updating this. She will update the Introduction and Management Practices section before the next meeting so TAB can review this. The remaining draft was divided into 3 sections: 1) Inventory, 2) Management Plan, and 3) Appendices. The TAB will first work on updating the **Street Tree Inventory** section. J. Zwarich will divide the village tree map into 5 areas for TAB members to cover as well as prepare a checklist of items to review for each village tree. She will also forward a list of names of volunteers who might be willing to assist TAB with this work. The inventory was done by Cornell SWAT team 5 years ago so is in need of updating. T. Bardes wondered if Cornell would be willing to do this again. J. Zwarich responded that it was only through a grant that the village was able to afford Cornell's work and not only would funds need to be sought, but that the process would likely take too long for the work TAB hopes to begin accomplishing. Once the Inventory is updated, TAB members will have gained the requisite knowledge needed to prioritize inventory maintenance work and can begin to comprise the 5 year Action Plan in more detail, which will allow them to move to completing section two of the draft Tree Management plan. Then TAB members will pool knowledge and resources to fill out the Appendices section (best practice planting, pruning, and cultural standards, etc.)

Focus of next meeting will be on continuing to update the Tree Management Plan. TAB also expressed interest in planning a visit to the Village Tree Nursery before the next meeting to discuss use and management with C. Day.

There were no comments received from the public.

Motion to adjourn meeting passed at 9:35 pm.