

TREE ADVISORY BOARD
VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING

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

09/30/2015
MEETING MINUTES
8:00pm Village Hall

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

Summary:

Meeting opened at 8:03 pm.

Motion made to approve 8/26 meeting minutes. Motion carried by vote of 4-0. G. Robertson abstained.

Public Comment was taken early by Jane and Ethan Timm who reported a dead, dangerous branch in street tree in front of Bijou on Main St. Jane reported the tree to be about 40 years in age. J. Zwarich was aware of the branch and had made note of it during her tree survey work. G. Robertson informed the Timms TAB would report it to the village but they should follow up with a call to the Village Clerk in the next week to make sure action was being taken. It's protocol to notify the clerk first rather than contact TAB directly in these matters. J. Zwarich reported this tree is declining due to large girdling roots and will eventually need to be taken down. The Timms indicated they were willing to pay for a replacement tree when this happens and if possible to place a memorial plaque on the tree. They also expressed thanks to TAB members for doing this important tree work for the village.

OLD BUSINESS

Brief update on TMP draft work: **Tree Inventory Survey**. J. Zwarich reported 3/5 of survey work now complete, reminded TAB members to please finish survey work by Oct 16. G. Robertson noted that he will be soliciting help to assist him with survey. T. Bardes and G. Robertson agreed to meet with J. Zwarich for a tutorial after this meeting. Newer version of map print out with tree ID numbers was discussed briefly as being the solution to previous map issues during survey process.

J. Zwarich asked TAB members if any questions remained on the **revised Internal Violation Flow Chart** recirculated. No questions raised. Motion made to approve was passed by a vote of 5-0.

J. Zwarich also happy to report the **Village Budget now has a separate line item** for donations towards trees which will carry over year to year. Ray DiFrancesco operator of Whistling Willie's has offered to replace the Linden tree in front of Carolyn's Flower Shoppe recently vandalized/killed on Main Street. TAB members all expressed gratitude for the generosity of these individuals.

J. Zwarich circulated a final list of **criteria for judging public requests for tree work** and discussion ensued. J. Zwarich again mentioned a **permit/permission form for Public Tree Cutting** to be based on said criteria which might require amending the public tree law. G. Robertson did not feel amendment would be necessary since such a permit is not amending what the law states but simply how the law is applied. TAB members all agreed the permitting process should be made as expedient as possible. Discussion ensued regarding the final criteria list. T. Bardes asked what the definition of 'desirable tree' is listed under criteria in

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Group One. J. Zwarich explained points a. through e. in effect define 'desirable'. G. Robertson requested an avenue of appeal be specified. G. Robertson felt strongly that although the criteria list will be used internally by TAB it should be approved and officially adopted by VBOT before TAB began to apply criteria to pending requests. TAB members agreed and J. Zwarich said she would present it to VBOT for their next meeting. A motion was made to adopt the criteria, subject to grievance procedure addendum, and passed by a vote of 5-0.

Discussion began regarding **Palmer-Lane request from 5 Mountain Ave.** to remove 2 Norway Maples on public property for purposes of installing solar panels. However, discussion quickly returned to **criteria list and a motion was made to reopen that discussion.** Motion passed 5-0. TAB members deliberated on how best to notice the public regarding pending public tree removal due to private requests. Should registered letters be sent to neighbors such as is done for HDRB requests? TAB felt this was not sufficient to notify the public at large since trees are truly public property regardless of where one lives in relation to tree visibility. J. Zwarich reported that in most municipalities a note is simply affixed to the tree. TAB deliberated further and determined the village should do this, but also give public notice in the official newspaper of record at the applicant's expense, allowing 2 weeks for public comment. Motion made to revise the criteria to include this. Motion passed 5-0.

Discussion returned to **Palmer-Lane request.** J. Zwarich shared she had received another e-mail from the Lanes hoping a decision might be made by end of September. TAB members would like more information from the Lanes specifically 1) their level of commitment to the project given their comments at the last meeting they attended and 2) whether a physical site study had been done by the solar company and if so, could TAB receive a copy. Further discussion was tabled pending approval of the criteria process by VBOT. TAB members all expressed regret at the delay in this process but that they wish to proceed with caution given the precedent setting nature of the Lane's request.

J. Zwarich reported Nick Depaolis of Cedar Hill Property Maintenance was hired by the Chamber at a generously discounted rate to take down the **holiday lights** posing damage to Main St. trees next week. The lights would be saved, if and when they could be, and returned to the Chamber.. T. Bardes indicated TAB should include standards for decorations in trees to be included in TMP. He volunteered to research this more. Further discussion was tabled till next meeting. TAB members expressed thanks to Nick and the Chamber for their work both for the lighting project 2 years ago and for taking the lights down before they substantially damaged the trees.

NEW BUSINESS

J. Zwarich updated TAB on the **Santos query of 54 Parrot St.** regarding a Kwanzan Cherry tree. The Santos family is concerned the new modular house that will be installed might be unable to manoeuvre around this street tree. They would like to save the tree if at all possible. J. Zwarich will forward them standards for protecting trees and informed them that moving the tree and overwintering it until spring for replanting was not advisable without extensive preparation at least a year in advance and likely a fatal option. TAB deliberated if homeowner insurance or contractor insurance might possibly cover the loss of the tree. G. Robertson said it would not be covered under village insurance. If the tree must be removed the homeowner must apply to the village for permission to remove and, if granted, will be required to replace the tree in kind depending on the age/value of the tree.

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As an aside, TAB briefly deliberated on how many/often **e-mails** should be shared with all members given how as Chairperson J. Zwarich receives the bulk. It was decided she would continue to use her discretion and communicate any e-mails requiring TAB to weigh in on decisions but that routine answers to simple questions she could handle as Chair. TAB members were reminded again to create e-mails specific to TAB work rather than using their personal addresses. TAB members agreed to do so before next meeting.

Preliminary **TAB website** was discussed and met with overall approval. Questions were raised regarding whether it could be connected or even hosted by the village website. G. Robertson felt TAB should first find out if the village website carries "cyber liability" insurance to protect against slander and offensive posts/hacking etc. J. Zwarich said she would ask VBOT at their monthly meeting. In mean time, she asked TAB members to send her photos, standards, info etc. to post to the site so she can continue to fill in. G. Robertson said he would reach out to Seamus Carroll about his postcard collection. It would be nice to include past vs. present photos of village treescapes—J. Zwarich has collected about a dozen such photos but more are needed/welcomed.

Fall/Winter planting was moved to next meeting for discussion.

Collaboration ideas were briefly touched upon. G. Robertson updated that Highlands Garden Club has offered to donate funds towards the purchase of village trees. G. Robertson said he would investigate further including reaching out to Philipstown Garden Club and report back. A Haldane Middle School Community Service Day is also being planned sometime in November, date tbd, and offered to help TAB with any hands-on tree projects. Once a date is set J. Zwarich will share with TAB to plan details of collaboration.

There was no further public comment.

Motion to adjourn meeting passed at 9:53 pm.