

TREE ADVISORY BOARD
VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING

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

10/28/2015
MEETING MINUTES
8:00pm Village Hall

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

Summary:

Meeting opened at 8:03 pm.

Brief discussion of 9/30 meeting minutes. Motion made to approve 9/30 meeting minutes with amendment re: change to "paper of record". Motion carried by vote of 5-0.

Public Comment was taken early by Juhee Hartford of River Architects and Anne Impellizzeri regarding removal of a street tree in front of **15 High Street** to accommodate pre-fab house installation. Ms. Hartford presented TAB members with photos of the site. J. Zwarich gave Ms. Hartford a copy of the draft public tree cutting application to submit before the next TAB meeting. TAB agreed to publicly notice the application in the official paper of record in order to expedite the process given the Impellizzeri's time frame for installation. TAB also asked for written copies of reason for necessity of tree removal from construction company.

OLD BUSINESS

TAB members agreed to **reschedule next meeting** to 11/18 from 11/25 given Thanksgiving holiday.

J. Zwarich reported TAB had been approached by Danielle Pack-McCarthy to collaborate on the **Haldane Middle School Service Day** scheduled for Nov 13 from 11-2pm. She volunteered to take about 6-12 kids for work weeding and cleaning up Main St. tree pits and to possibly pre-dig/prepare a site for planting a tree from the root-pruned trees behind the Haldane HS. K. Riesterer also offered to help.

J. Zwarich updated TAB on **status of pruning concerns received in Sept/Oct**. A branch on the Norway maple in front of Bijou galleries has been removed by HWY dept, other branches on the same tree were left alone for now, and the Silver Maple on Academy St. was pruned by Central Hudson. T. Bardes mentioned that Garrison Tree had begun, and then halted, an eval for the Silver Maple and reported the company might be willing to offer a package deal for tree evals in the future at a cost saving to the village. J. Zwarich said she would discuss with village clerk and possibly reach out to Garrison Tree again re: the Silver Maple eval to see if the tree needs additional work.

Brief discussion ensued around **Central Hudson's** pruning. T. Bardes asked about time frame for notification from utility company before pruning work to be done and J. Zwarich said it was about 2 weeks notice before their regular 5-year line clearance work—but the other ad-hoc work is not always put on the village's radar. TAB agreed it would be a good idea in future to invite Central Hudson lead utility arborist to one of their public meetings in order to foster and establish a better working relationship. If the public showed up to this meeting

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it would also indicate to Central Hudson that residents truly care about how the company prunes our public trees and give them a chance to explain their priorities and protocol.

J. Zwarich reported that Trustee Bowman has indicated that the village does have cyber liability coverage and that the VBOT is ok with the idea of TAB creating a **website** to link to the village's website but formal approval by VBOT is required prior to the site going live. The village clerk is the website's current admin. TAB agreed to review the structure of the website more closely at next meeting.

Brief update on TMP draft work: **Tree Inventory Survey** still outstanding work. G. Robertson promises to have done by coming Sunday. T. Bardes is unable to complete due to work overload. J. Zwarich said she would split T. Bardes' section among remaining TAB members in order to finish. She reiterated TAB could not move forward with prioritizing work until the inventory was complete. C. Day presented TAB with a DBH measuring tape much to everyone's delight as it will make the process of calculating DBH much easier. Thank you Charlie!

J. Zwarich also reported that VBOT had approved the **criteria for judging public requests for tree work** at their most recent meeting. She circulated a standardized request form for public tree cutting with instructions to applicants. TAB briefly reviewed and discussion ensued. G. Robertson was specifically concerned with applicants listing contractors for tree work and questioned why the applicant should be allowed to hire a private contractor to do work on a public tree. K. Riesterer felt requiring the village to contract out for every public request for tree work would slow down the process by adding another level of government. J. Zwarich mentioned the village already sometimes allows homeowners to hire private contractors for approved work on village property by requiring them to sign a hold-harmless waiver absolving the village of liability. She believed we should establish how the process already works in the village and then just apply that precedent to trees. G. Robertson felt the issue might be resolved by including a "Hold Harmless Agreement" directly into the application form but felt that would need the attention of the village attorney. He reiterated that it seemed best to have the village contract and oversee work on its own property. TAB discussed different ways to proceed including concerns about costs and the need of consulting the village attorney. It was decided that J. Zwarich would meet with the village clerk and accountant etc to establish how the village currently operates in regard to property owners paying for work involving village property and get a better understanding of how the village will proceed with tree work. She would then update the application instructions to reflect the process. For now, TAB also agreed to send the current application (without the first page) to the Santos family in response to their inquiry about relocating a cherry tree adjacent to their home—which may need to be removed for installation of their new home.

Discussion moved to establishing a **formula for tree replacement value** moving forward. TAB agreed a standard was needed since there is nothing currently in our public tree law. Other municipalities either agree on a flat fee per tree or calculate based on replacing total caliper inches. TAB agreed this would require more research on their part but that in the meantime, they would establish a flat fee of \$500 per tree until the code could be changed to a standard formula. TAB members felt they needed something fair for the applications they are currently receiving. T. Bardes mentioned that the future formula should also include stump grinding along with take down costs so that tree pits would be ready sooner than later for replacement plantings.

Discussion continued regarding the Palmer-Lane request from **5 Mountain Ave.** to remove 2 Norway Maples on public property. TAB agreed Mr. Lane should be given the application and, if/when he turns the application and noticing payment in, they would simply apply the standard criteria to his request.

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T. Bardes relayed a question he'd been asked regarding the **Tree City USA** designation and whether it had the potential to raise property taxes. J. Zwarich explained it was not related to property taxes and would simply allow the village to apply for more grants by making it eligible for grants requiring that designation. There was agreement that the designation benefits village residents.

There was no further public comment.

Motion to adjourn meeting passed at 10:08 pm.