

TREE ADVISORY BOARD
VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING

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

12/16/2015
MEETING MINUTES
8:00pm Village Hall

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

Summary:

Meeting opened at 8:02 pm.

Approval of 10/28 meeting minutes moved to January 6th meeting.

Meeting began with **NEW BUSINESS**

Review for completeness of application: Melissa Santos of 54 Parrott Street. J. Zwarich gave brief overview of application, noting one missing document remained. Mrs. Santos produced letter from contractor detailing need for tree removal, completing application. In order to expedite the process, TAB decided to preliminarily go through the Tree Removal criteria process and get the thoughts of the board, before holding a public meeting for formal review of the application. All members of the board agreed to hold a special meeting 1/6/16 at 7:30 PM at Village Hall for sole purpose of formally reviewing the application and expediting the review process to VBOT on January 12 twelfth for a final vote. TAB recognizes the Santos application involves hardship as the family is looking to rebuild their home lost in a fire. TAB noted to the applicant that a local tree service had volunteered to remove the tree in question free of charge, but the Santos family would be required to cover the standard \$500 tree replacement fee. The applicant expressed agreement and willingness to meet these conditions.

J. Zwarich proposed to skip ahead to the CORRESPONDENCE section of the agenda out of consideration for the single other attendee at the meeting who was waiting to discuss an item. J. Zwarich noted correspondence TAB received from Haldane's "Gang Up For Good" PTA Committee, thanking TAB for collaborating on the middle school service day.

Correspondence from the resident of 203 Main Street was reviewed, regarding the old Silver Maple on Academy Street. Airinos Serradas was present at the meeting and reiterated his concerns about the tree, presenting TAB with photos he had taken prior to recent additional pruning of pruned limbs showing rot. He informed TAB that for the past several years he has noticed the village annually regarding this tree. He is concerned with its roots heaving the sidewalk, making it impassible, and roots potentially entering the fire hydrant piping nearby. His in-laws reside in the house directly opposite the street. TAB members updated Mr. Serradas on special attention being given the tree. K.Riesterer noted that the TAB is in the process of prioritizing trees in the village presenting greatest safety concerns so that they will get attention in a timely manner. She noted that sidewalk heaving from roots is an issue throughout the village and not specific to just this tree, and that the sidewalk there had in past years been ground in areas to mitigate the heaving. G. Robertson thanked Mr. Serradas for sharing his concern. J. Zwarich reported that the village had the tree recently evaluated by a certified arborist who recommended further pruning dead wood, which has since been done. The arborist certified the tree is structurally sound and good health now. The TAB will monitor it annually for signs of decline.

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OLD BUSINESS

JZ reported that she is close to completing G. Robertson's remaining section of the tree inventory survey. She reiterated that as a group TAB will need to next prioritize which trees to focus energy and budget resources on for next year. In the meantime, TAB will need to begin raising funds to complete the work as the village budget is inadequate. T. Bardes brought again the idea of having evaluations of trees done by arborists in groups of 5 or 10 trees at a cost savings to the village. TAB members brought up the issue that at times these evaluations have been done for free in the past but this might present a conflict of interest in terms of who was selected to do the work. Brief discussion ensued. G. Robertson offered to draft a sample letter to run in the papers soliciting tree service providers who wish to be officially listed with the village for tree work. This list would eventually be posted on TAB's soon-to-come website. JZ reported that VBOT specifically requested TAB make recommendations regarding tree work, thus TAB would need to determine who to recommend to the VBOT for specific jobs. It was agreed TAB would simply rotate through the list of reputable tree professionals unless a job required specific skills and/or equipment not every professional had. G. Robertson expressed concern with idea of TAB making recommendation rather than leaving it to VBOT but agreed if VBOT had requested this of TAB we should comply.

JZ updated TAB on Main & Furnace Street paving project, slated to begin in spring. As part of the project structural soil will be filled under new sidewalk sections adjacent to any current and future planting sites. On Furnace street 2 trees will need to be removed given the extent of the work on street and sidewalks, but these will be replaced. New trees will likewise be added to Main Street as a result of this project. Given DOT requirement that trees only be removed during dormant season, the Village is now responsible for removing trees originally slated for removal during the project. Eddie and the Highway crew are able to remove two of the trees, but two other trees will need to be contracted out. JZ will report how much of the current village tree budget will be depleted from this once she has more information. Due to grading requirements and root infiltration, a Silver Maple on corner of High Street will have to be removed and another tree on Main near Lunn Terrace.

G. Robertson mentioned practicality of tagging street trees with numbers for fast and accurate identification during projects and emergency pruning and TAB agreed this was prudent. He will research and donate sequential aluminum tags. Thank you Gordon!

J. Zwarich reported that the TAB website mock up was reviewed by VBOT and approved. The site can begin to go live and TAB can now update with more info/resources. There is no need to have village lawyer review the site, which will be linked to the village website.

Application instructions draft was moved to next meeting.

JZ reported that about 30 trees (those planted in the past 5 or so years) in the village should be trained this winter to maintain structural health and good growth patterns that will help avoid maintenance costs as the trees age. Since this is work TAB can do by hand it was agreed tentatively that the weekend of January 9/10th be set aside for this. Led by C. Day, TAB members agreed to meet at 9:15am at intersection of 9d and 301. A planting plan for the young trees located on Haldane property and donated by Richard Shea is tentatively slated for early spring to allow time to coordinate with the school for student involvement.

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Discussion of transformer screening in front of MooMoos. J. Zwarich said she had discussed site with Jeff Phillips of recreation commission and that he OKed funding replacement trees better suited to the site. C. Day presented a site plan recommending ideally that Plum Yew trees (*Cephalotaxus*) be planted here, available by wholesale order from Monrovia. Plum Yew is extremely shade and deer tolerant. Another option is Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*), slightly less shade and deer tolerant but well suited to damp soil and has both compact and leggy forms of growth to screen box. JZ said she would look into ordering and coordinate with Rec Commission.

JZ reported that VBOT has now transferred the remaining cemetery funds to tree budget line as per original cemetery donor's request. Village budget tree line is now in existence with balance of roughly \$430 (from cemetery find transfer and Tim Greco's \$100 donation).

Back to NEW BUSINESS...

Brief mention again of T. Bardes alerting TAB to the online "**Tree University**" as a valuable resource, since G. Robertson was absent at last month's meeting. This course mentions importance of tree boards not getting bogged down in administrative details but keeping focused on long-term, productive goals. To this end JZ asked TAB members at next meeting to each submit a 'wish list' of ideas and projects they would personally like to complete. She also asked TAB to each jot down in more detail their areas of expertise/strengths to share too.

There was no further public comment.

Motion to adjourn meeting passed at 9:40 pm.