

TREE ADVISORY BOARD
VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING

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

5/25/2016
MEETING MINUTES
8:00pm Village Hall

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

Summary:

TAB convened at 8:00 pm outside village hall for brief walking tour of main street sidewalk project improvement zones. JZ reported 6 longer sidewalk utility strip spaces have been opened and will be left after the project for future beautification and improvement spearheaded by TAB. These areas will be finished with thin layer of stone dust or equivalent material to prevent erosion and ensure safety until beautification is complete. One space will be designed as a prototype first for the public village officials to inspect and to generate excitement for fundraising. TAB briefly discussed plans for this. JZ reported that she will obtain quotes per square footage for labor installing pavers, allowing TAB to budget for future work option of pavers. TB suggested that fabric or paper be put down in remaining open spaces over soil before stone dust is laid to make future removal easier. Areas around trees, appx 3 ft on either side, will not get stone dust treatment as per the specifications in the contract.

TAB reconvened indoors at 8:24 to officially open meeting.

3/30/16 minutes approved 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion began around Tree Inventory safety evaluations and pruning priorities. JZ reported the 4 trees on Paulding and 2 ginkgos further up the street had all been assessed and pruned by Lee's Tree Service. The oldest Silver Maple was taken down and the rest all maintenance pruned for safety. The arborist recommended future removal of the other silver maple before end of summer and JZ will get quotes for this take down. This work depleted tree money in general fund leaving no pruning or removal money left for fy2015. JZ reminded TAB there were many trees needing various levels of maintenance pruning, and it was discussed at past meeting to have a batch of 10 trees done at once to save money. GR reminded TAB to prudently identify and prioritize for pruning the worst trees first given the inadequate level of funding in the general fund lines for such work. JZ reported there will be total \$4,000 in village general fund for next year's tree work.

Jump to NEW BUSINESS

JZ also passed out General Fund breakdown of tree-related lines for TAB to review budget, specifically the carryover line for fundraising. There is still \$200 remaining in general fund for this year ending June 1. GR asked if TAB could find out what the total 'tree budget' is for sidewalk project so TAB can negotiate number and species of trees. GR also asked if there was an inventory available on village supplies and materials sitting around that could potentially be used for tree pit projects and if there are possibly young trees on village properties that could be transplanted to sites, again as cost saving measure.

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TAB discussed opening an account with Adam's in Wappingers and other consumer nurseries so that at end of season TAB can possibly purchase or receive donated trees and shrubs. Village has accounts at a few wholesale nurseries. Idea was raised to send out letter to other area nurseries for same purpose since nurseries need to return or move unsold stock at season's end. GR said even using remaining funds to purchase a gift card in advance allows TAB to then buy trees later at better planting times.

Return to OLD BUSINESS

Discussion continued regarding Tree Management Plan. JZ reminded TAB of need to create a clear, rational action plan for spending on 2016-17 annual work for trustees to review. TAB reviewed their original action plan for year one work to determine what had been completed already, etc. TB will work with JZ on compiling a maintenance manual with guidelines for tree selection, pruning standards etc. TB will also research a 'sponsor a tree' program to coordinate with website marketing of tree pit improvement plans. GR brought up idea of asking board for approval of T-shirt fundraiser for main street improvement: send out a mailing asking for input/donations and those who donate receive T-shirt. JZ reported she is done compiling paperwork for tree city USA application and is nearly done with tree inventory's prioritized list of maintenance work. JZ is still working on update to survey data entry and online map updates. CD will compile a list of village tree nursery needs and evaluate current site moving forward. TAB agreed to table nursery improvement work for now until other points are completed.

It was agreed to set 5 year goals moving forward. Discussion of these ensued. Bare root planting plan into place moving forward may be annually cheaper than purchasing balled/burlapped trees but requires more advanced planning and assumes more risk of planting failure. Another goal discussed was to amend village code to include protocol for replacement trees. JZ passed out Ithaca's sample code for review. GR noted the importance of defining terms. He will research additional codes and draft a sample code for review.

G. Robertson asked if TAB had posted the call for interested arborists in local papers yet and JZ reported the tree service/contractor application was pending Mayor's approval and would then be officially posted.

JZ and CD gave Greg Phillips input on tree varieties to screen at water treatment plant. It's up to Greg to make decision now using the water budget.

JZ reported on screening of electrical box at waterfront as requested by Rec Commission. Preferred size Plum Yews could not be located but she was able to find Viburnum dentate. CD recommended interspersing smaller Inkberry Holly with Viburnum if budget allowed. JZ also reported communication with Jeff Phillips of the Rec Commission who will get quotes and coordinate removal of dead limbs on the willow trees at Mayor's Park and possibly prune village oaks there as well – this will come out of Rec Comm budget line.

Arbor Day ceremony was deemed a success!

Tree tagging plan was tabled until next meeting.

CD will add a few more trees to Walking Tour brochure and finalize selection. KR reported on cost and size of labels she will donate. It was agreed not to use QR codes on labels.

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Sample tree pit border project work has been pushed back due to construction and DEC cleanup on private lot which sits adjacent to this pit. Volunteer mason will lay pavers and GR is working on tree pit railings.

Fundraising was tabled to next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Correspondence was reviewed. Discussion about process of responding to mounting number of public inquiries ensued. TAB discussed whether it would follow village policy to send responses to the Mayor to communicate to public or whether it was better to communicate directly etc. Most felt it was village policy to let village staff communicate and the TAB advise. JZ will follow up with the Mayor on best practice.

GR will assist in meeting with the Highway Dept. to discuss feasibility of doing weeding/maintenance of tree pits on Main Street as part of their budget. JZ asked TB to supply her with a ballpark number for this kind of work so she can determine estimated cost to village if Highway Dept. is not able to handle. There was also discussion of tree delivery and storage protocols on the Highway lot and how to help improve these.

There was no public comment.

Motion to adjourn meeting passed at 9:58 pm.

Reopened meeting to discuss holding future TAB meetings at 7:30 rather than 8:00pm. Motion passed 5-0.

New motion to adjourn passed 9:59pm.