

6/14/2017
MEETING MINUTES
7:30pm Village Hall

Present: Tony Bardes (TB), Charles Day (CD), Kory Riesterer (KR), Gordon Robertson (GR), Jennifer Zwarich (JZ).

Summary:

TAB convened at 7:35pm.

Approval of 5/17/17 meeting minutes tabled to next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Miscellaneous Updates:

- a) JZ reported on meeting with Central Hudson about utility tree pruning and giving that report to Mayor. She also mentioned items remain on the HWY dept. 'to-do' list, though most of the list is done. There was talk about the county sharing cost of a tree crew for the day to handle outstanding work – this is still in discussion phase and TAB is waiting to hear from HWY if that is possible. GR would like to learn more about potential for shared county resources. TB mentioned it might be easier to get a local tree service instead to be 'on retainer' of sorts for 1 day each month to handle work. TB will contact a few for ballpark costs for this – an official RFP could be put out later.
- b) Remaining village tree removal work to be discussed at next meeting.
- c) JZ: idea to put TAB's regular monthly VBOT updates for public view on website or otherwise publicize them better.
- d) GR: Boat Club update: fence painting almost done. Perpetual standing water in grassy area remains an issue. GR discussed with Mark Patinella who reported seeing DEC looking at site. CD: indicated water would be issue for *Myrica* (Bayberry) shrubs but not Bald Cypress. CD will visit site and assess. JZ asked GR to forward his email re: water issue to Mayor. High tide is also of concern here.

*****At 8:00pm TAB was asked to vacate conference room to move to smaller office space. Meeting reconvened 8:05pm.***

2. Workshop of replacement planting plan in conjunction with tree cutting application of Sarah Defranco of 230 Main St. to remove 46 yew trees on village property. Sarah Defranco in attendance D. Reeves attending via speaker phone. JZ began discussion by informing TAB there is a triangle of footage on corner which allows no planting based on village code. She also noted that along with yew hedge a declining undesirable Norway maple tree will also need to be removed to guarantee long term health of replacement plantings. Copies of site planting plan were distributed. CD likes plan. GR would like to see entire row of yews removed (including those that extend to frontage of neighboring property of former Montessori school) for aesthetic consistency. KR did not think removing the entire row was necessary aesthetically and wanted the new property owners of neighboring parcel to weigh in. JZ had reached out to new owners about the yew hedge but they indicated they were not prepared to respond at this time.

-TB brought up concerns around cost and timeline for proposal and JZ reiterated that current discussion was about a cost number the applicant would agree to and whether TAB felt the project could be achieved in the public interest with a net gain for the village with funds agreed to by the applicant.

-Applicant was amenable to overall planting plan but did not like evergreen tree option, preferring instead another oak or dogwood. Applicant also does not like Sweetgum tree (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) given 'gumball' seed pod. JZ noted a seedless variety exists 'rotundiloba' as option to maintain fall color on site. CD wondered if either a Magnolia or Sourgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) might work in place of Sweetgum. Applicant also concerned with tree locations near property line given buried propane tank in corner.

-JZ explained to applicant that approval of their front walkway/sidewalk tie-in will also need village approval for the site before any work could be started. GR expressed opinion that discussion of tree options were premature until sidewalk issue resolved. He requested to review minutes from last meeting. JZ noted that minutes were forthcoming. JZ stated purpose of this workshop meeting was to come up with a site plan both TAB and applicant could agree on. GR stated he felt TAB first needed exact unit cost figured out for proposed project (and removing neighboring property yew hedge) before proceeding with anything else. JZ disagreed, stating that exact costs would only be possible if/when competitive quotes were received but that this meeting was to ascertain the applicants willingness to cover the estimated costs only so that the TAB could make a recommendation on the application to the Village Board of Trustees. JZ agreed that estimates for a few other items on the planting plan needed to be ascertained, and if TB and GR would be responsible for coming back to TAB next monthly meeting with unit cost estimates for labor/materials.

-JZ noted to applicant that reason for evergreen on planting plan was to ease the transition between the removed row and the remaining row of yews so it wouldn't appear so abrupt. Applicant agreed and agreed to return to July meeting to discuss with the board a more precise number for replacement cost. July workshop meeting to be rescheduled for the 4th Wednesday in July.

-After continued discussion JZ made a motion to tentatively approve the site plan pending following outstanding items:

****sidewalk permitting approval***

****confirmation of propane tank location on site***

****removal of sickly Norway Maple***

****subject to an amended planting plan reflecting missing costs***

GR added that motion to approve was also tentative

****subject to adequate project funding***

TAB approved the above motion 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Evaluation of Tree Cutting application from Brian McNicholl of 2 Kemble Ave. Cold Spring to remove and replace a public street tree adjacent to 2 Kemble Ave. JZ read a letter stating the applicant could not attend but was sending arborist Iain Kinglsey in his place. Ian was present at the start of the meeting but couldn't stay for this portion of meeting given length of previous discussion.

a) TAB reviewed applicant's summary of proposal.

- b) Discussion from board members included feasibility of removing existing tree from current tiny pit, health of existing tree, moving planting to different preexisting pit on Kemble Ave., costs involved with removal and increase of pit size (incl. breakout zone for structural soil), as well as village labor involved, etc.
- c) There was no public comment on application.
- d) TAB applied evaluation criteria: criteria was met under GROUP #2. TB made a motion to approve application subject to **applicant agreeing to cover cost of village recommended planting standards (widening tree pit, adding structural soil) subject to approval of TBD tree selection and all associated costs.** Motion was approved 5-0.

JZ will notify applicant of approval and reach out to village for cement work on widening tree pit in that location.

**During discussion of application GR brought up concern with "contaminating the market place" every time TAB consults with tree service companies. Suggested TAB determine a set arbitrary 'consulting fee' so in future tree companies aren't incurring time each time asked to consult. Could be a 'village standard rate' applied which weeds out non-serious applicants. JZ: discussion to be continued at future meeting.

4. Correspondence – JZ circulate copies via email of 4 letters from public:
 - a) Hudson House – tree interfering with electric lines/flickering lights reported to Central Hudson for pruning.
 - b) Lillian Moser on tree branches touching her porch roof– waiting on a legal response.
 - c) Bo Corre (37 Church St.) – RE grinding of stump outside home.
 - d) Spring Brook Condos – RE tree cutting application.

JZ reported she sent courtesy letter to Town Supervisor Richard Shea re: planting of hybrid Elm into wide tree pit directly in front of Town Hall. JZ also reported seeking legal opinion re: potential for property damage from tree limbs close to homes as this will be an ongoing issue as letters from public continue to arrive. Mayor has agreed to speak to village attorney for more details – JZ awaiting his response before reporting more to TAB. JZ reported that Town Board member Bob Flaherty kindly donated much-needed mulch for new village trees and thanked him and others like him who show such community spirit.

5. Additional Public Comment – none.
6. JZ brought up issue of HWY department being low staffed and over-extended lately and not able to complete mulch and tree-related items yet. GR recommended in future asking VBOT to allot hours for HWY crew to complete tree related work on a monthly or annual basis as this is cost effective for village. Hours could be 'banked' if not used. Include this as part of annual plan in TAB's Management Plan. KR noted that trees fall under same maintenance category as leaf pick-up, garbage, recycling etc. which HWY crew does on a regular, scheduled basis with allotted hours. Further discussion is warranted on this topic.
7. Before closing TB and GR both agreed before next monthly meeting to research costs involved with Yew Hedge application such as determining labor costs from village HWY crew or outside contractor. Motion to adjourn meeting passed at 10:00 pm.