

TREE ADVISORY GROUP
TOWN OF WESTON
MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2019

Present: Acting Chair Laura Perry, Marilyn Doyle, Luke Mcneil, Ed Recka
Guests: Tom Cullen, John Zaccardi

1. The meeting began at 2:30 p.m.
2. Citizen Comments: There were none.
3. The minutes of December 5 and 12, 2018, were reviewed by attending members. They will be addressed for a vote at next meeting when there is a quorum.
4. Tree City U.S.A. Application:

Tom reported that the submitted Tree City U.S.A. application has been accepted . He expanded on his goals for maintaining the character of scenic roads in Weston. He recommended that TAG get help from a scenic roadways specialist. Luke noted that trees planted in Newton are a monoculture and stated that we should take care to plant a variety of species. Global warming, proliferation of pests, diseases and invasive plants should be taken into account. Laura noted that our work with the landscape architect for Case Park focused on creating a natural habitat.

Tom said that a good number of trees were lost in the last few years and many more have to be added. Choosing one or two scenic roads to start, TAG should identify where to plant. After a plan is made, funding could be sought: Eversource, roadway construction projects, other sources are possibilities. He said the Planning Board emphasizes maintaining scenic roads, and we should work with them. In response to Ed's query, Tom said he would be willing to help draft a proposal. Streets should be chosen and a draft for proposal should be submitted. Consider for February meeting. He noted that the Town wants to address the Route 20 corridor. There is opportunity to truly change the character of the road.

Intersection changes are planned. They include vehicles, pedestrians, bikes, and landscape component. Tom noted that half of the tree inventory has been completed. We should consider what trees fit and planting where there are no trees. Luke suggested consideration of sumac in some places. Laura said it could be used to fill in areas. The Planning Board could be consulted on species to plant.

5. Rail Trail:

It was noted that trees have been marked for removal in proposed parking lot plans. Ed emphasized that we should have a plan for what can be planted along the trail. We should know the restrictions. Could trees planted now be clear cut in 20 years? Tom is unsure of restrictions. The Rail Trail Committee is evaluating and focusing on Church Street and Concord Road. He suggested we follow the Rail Trail Committee to determine restrictions. Screening at completion of the Conant Road underpass opening will be needed.

6. Arbor Day Tree:

The Fifth Grade class plans to make a tradition of planting a tree every year. It could be part of the Arbor Day planting.

Some sites suggested for this year's Arbor Day planting are as follows:

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a. Transfer Station. Tom cautioned that care should be taken in choosing a location there. Some places cannot be planted. Ed mentioned the possibility of planting a willow tree in the wet area.

b. Westland Road and Silver Hill Road, where a tree is to be taken down. Tom thinks that is a great location. "Winter King" hawthorn had been suggested for that site, and Ed said it is salt tolerant.

Suitable trees should be listed. Availability from local nurseries should be considered.

7. Case Park Update and Report from Barbara Keene of Tree Specialists:

Barbara Keene sent a message to Laura, stating that her meeting with Wes Wirth went well. She will send a report to Laura.

John said that the parks with wildflowers and grasses mentioned by Barbara are in Duxbury and Manchester by the Sea (both not nearby). It is his understanding that one area only on each side of Case Park will be planted with forest floor material; he finds that more comfortable than planting the entire periphery of the field. Marilyn said it was her understanding that the shrub and tree area could be mulched (shredded leaf mulch) which would alleviate some mowing problems.

There was brief discussion of problems with native trees: pests and diseases, including emerald ash borer, wooly adelgid, Aian long horned beetle, a disease of white pine, etc. Should some non native trees be considered? Marilyn mentioned that Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) and *Parrotia persica* might be suitable for planting in some places. Luke added sycamore and *Catalpa* and suggested planting a group of sycamores in one area and, if results are successful, continuing planting in other areas.

Tom said there are opportunities to plant strategically in islands: Chiltern Road and Ridgeway Road, Ridgeway Road and Bullard Road noted.

8. Legacy Trail:

Ed noted that the Ash Street portion of the trail is a scenic road. Tom said the Legacy Trail Committee is working out the final details of the project. They considered ways to construct a path to save some trees. Mention was made about making stone dust the component on part of the trail.

9. Other:

Laura brought up the subject of summer watering. Parks Department should water from June through September. Are there any provisions for watering before June?

Ed noted that he removed tree protectors and trimmed the elms at Soldier's Park.

10. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2019, 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Doyle

