

TOWN OF WESTON  
TREE ADVISORY GROUP  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2020  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Present: Chair Lori Hess, Kristin Barbieri, Nina Danforth, Marilyn Doyle, Barbara Fullerton, Ed Recka  
Absent: Laura Perry  
Guests: Tom Cullen, Kevin Kermuillowicz

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

1. Citizen Comments, Announcements, and Approval of Minutes:

Barbara commented on a conversation (at recent symposium at Tower Hill) about elm trees: Princeton variety is not as resistant to Dutch elm disease as previously believed. While Princeton is in the plan for the town center, other varieties are also included. Nina said a slippery elm on her property is doing very well.

Tom introduced Kevin Kermuillowicz who described the work he is doing, wherein the GIS website for identifying trees on the tree list will be enhanced.

2. Arbor Day:

Kristin reported that Field School Principal, Dr. Green, is in favor of the proposed plantings for the Field School. She will contact him to see if a brief Arbor Day ceremony to include Field School participants at a time other than vacation week would be acceptable.

There followed a discussion about other places to plant trees: Silver Hill and Westland roads, the Legacy Trail, new section of Linwood Cemetery, the corner of Route 30 and Wellesley Street at the High School field, Ash Street reservoir, and traffic islands.

In preparation for the March meeting, we should look for top ten places to plant and proceed with a planting plan.

3. Public Street Working Group:

Lori reported that the first meeting of the Public Street Working Group is scheduled for Monday, February 24. TAG members should give input to her for items they would like to have addressed.

4. Tree Concerns and Resolution Discussion:

There is no formalized process to address tree concerns of property owners. It is important to capture and document such concerns, and a system is needed to deal with them, taking necessary action in a timely manner. Ed noted that the issues should be addressed in a tree by-law. Tree concerns and pruning should be topics for discussion by the Public Street Working Group.

5. Tree Warden/DPW Update:

Tom reported that the DPW is focusing on trees from the data base marked to be taken down, and stump grinding for restoration on private properties is ongoing. Jackie is getting acclimated to her job.

6. Case Park Update:

Lori had a cordial meeting with Michele Schukel, a Scout Board member. She saw the design for the Park and walked with Nina and Jackie, looking at the new trees. Nina observed that two old apple trees were badly in need of pruning.

Ed mentioned an article in ARNOLDIA. It describes the ground cover and pollinator planting at the Arnold Arboretum solar farm—the planting to be the first of its kind in Massachusetts. He suggested that there should be a pruning training session for the benefit of town residents.

Nina will talk with Jackie about issues seen with trees at Case Park: 1 dogwood planted in 2019, 1 crabapple, 1 sourwood.

Jackie undertook removal of bittersweet and buckthorn at the site.

7. Heritage Trees—“Remarkable Trees of Weston”:

Nina will take a better picture of the sycamore tree. She bemoaned the loss of the white spruce on the Town Green. The tree was lighted at Christmas by the Community League, which could be consulted regarding a tree lighting project in the future.

8. Case Estates:

Most trees planted from the plan have died. Two big trees near the Legacy Trail are recently gone. They were cut by Land’s Sake for fire wood and encouragement of new growth. The Department of Forestry approves such measures.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 10 a.m., Department of Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Doyle