

TOWN OF WESTON
TREE ADVISORY GROUP
MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2020

ON LINE MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Lori Hess, Chair, Kristin Barbieri, Nina Danforth, Barbara Fullerton, Ed Recka, Jackie Jackson (DPW).

Absent: Laura Perry

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am.

1. Arbor Day: Kristin reported that the Arbor Day celebration does not need to be held on Arbor

Day, but we could devise an alternate plan and hold it another day. The schools may not reopen even by May 4.

Nina and Kristen met to look for locations where some trees could be planted. There is a dead tree with lights on it at the Field School overflow parking lot. Eversource will provide some trees to be planted, but we need to meet with Eversource to decide on what trees should be obtained. Nina has talked to Weston Nurseries, who will plant the trees. Hopefully they can be planted by early or mid-May. She would like to get bare-root trees, not balled and burlapped. Possibly Jackie Jackson may be able to help.

When the dead tree with the lights is removed, the lights on the other nearby trees should be removed at the same time. If people want lights at the parking area, possibly a different type could be used that wouldn't damage the tree roots, and all the lights could be done at the same time.

It would be good to get an agreement with the school committee on what type of lights would look appropriate there. Kristen is familiar with some of the school committee members and will talk with them.

Lori Hess suggested that our working list of trees supplied by Eversource should be split into "school" and "non-school" trees. Nina and Kristen thought that there was enough space for 3-4 more trees around the school and library, where a

ginkgo had been removed, and another 12 could be planted in other locations, such as around North Avenue. Some crab apples planted there previously seem to be doing well. Lori had flagged some possible spots at Case Park for witch hazel, although she thought that Case Park plants should be put on hold for now.

Nina suggested that the new road "bump out" near the intersection of Wellesley and Newton Streets would be a possible spot for some shrubs/trees less than 10 feet, maybe witch hazels to benefit early pollinators. Jackie said they should not obstruct the traffic sight lines. Some short ground covers might also be good there- blue stem- mixed with the witch hazel.

The south side of town may also be a place to plant 2-3 trees, such as at the Silver Hill area or the Chiltern triangle. The triangle at Highland Street and Rt. 30 is another possibility and Barbara has been communicating with Tom Cullen about this spot. Ed suggested a Winter King Hawthorne or London Plane Tree.

2. The next meeting will be held Wed., April 15 at 10 am, also on Zoom.

We will plan to discuss the Ecological Management Plan proposal for the Case Estate land, the document for which is on the town web site.