

TREE ADVISORY GROUP  
TOWN OF WESTON  
MINUTES OF JULY 18, 2019  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Present: Chair Lori Hess, Nina Danforth, Marilyn Doyle, Barbara Fullerton, Ed Recka  
Absent: Kristin Barbieri, Luke Mcneil, Laura Perry, John Skillman  
Guests: Tree Warden Tom Cullen, Leslie Glynn (Planning Board)

At 2:30 p.m., the meeting was called to order by new Chair, Lori Hess.

1. Citizen Comments and Approval of June minutes:

The minutes of June 12 were approved. Leslie Glynn asked about our progress in constructing a tree by-law. Lori asked for clarification on a water bag recently reported to be defective on North Avenue. The defective bag is on the eastern-most tree in plantings closest to Lexington Street. The problem will be addressed by Kenny Sullivan on Friday.

Prior to discussion of item 2 on the agenda, Nina expressed her thanks to the group for the send-off she received on her last day as chair. Lori thanked her for her hard work during her tenure. Ed suggested that the proposed tree by-law require the hiring of a part time arborist. Also, it was noted that the document should embody services that TAG can offer to town committees and selectmen.

2. Town Center Tree Planting Summary:

Nina stated that judgment for placement of trees cannot be determined with the plan as presented. Tom will obtain a landscape plan and send it to Lori. It was agreed that TAG choose from the extensive list submitted by Barbara two or three elm cultivars to present to the selectmen.

Ed and Nina volunteered to look at the construction specs for the Town Center Project.

Leslie would like to see more linden trees in the plan, and Nina stated her desire to plant horse chestnuts. Marilyn noted that red-flowering horse chestnut trees outside the periodical room at the Library looked very nice when viewed a few years ago. Ed would like to see a sycamore tree planted; it would have historic reference to the two sycamore stumps on the Post Road near Concord Road.

There was brief discussion of irrigation for the town center. The Planning Board and the Historic Commission advocated for creation of a town well to serve the various entities in the center. Municipal water source is in the plan now.

3. Tree Warden's Update:

Tom reported that the tree removal contract is up for re-bidding.

Tom emphasized his priority to do a planting at Westland Road and Silver Hill Road (Ed suggested planting a hawthorn "Winter King"). He said the island at Route 30 and Highland Street is a good candidate for a planting of several trees. He has in mind something similar to the plantings on North Avenue opposite Church Street.

The Traffic and Sidewalk Committee is working on Route 30, and the Route 20 signal project is ongoing.

Information on tree inventory is on the GIS website, which indicates size and species of trees. Tree pruning will be done with a canopy fourteen feet from the ground.

4. Discussion of TAG's Charge:

Lori distributed copies of a preliminary statement focused on mission, method, and activities. Marilyn stated that our activities have changed our mission and we could help other committees with knowledge about trees that could be useful to them. Lori noted that we should be careful to stay within parameters of our charge. Nina noted that our input on the Ash Street project prompted the Traffic and Sidewalk Committee to think about how to build a sidewalk.

Barbara stressed that education should be a large part of our mission.

Lori noted that we will focus on the Town Center at our August meeting, and she would like to invite Stephen Laroque (Chair of Town Center Committee) to attend.

In September we should reopen the subject of our mission statement.

It was noted that we should lean on State agencies. Leslie said the DCR will conduct a two day training session on urban forestry. Some TAG members who attended such programs found them very informative.

Barbara noted that Concord submitted to townsmen a questionnaire about a tree by-law. Weston might do something similar.

Leslie wondered about our time line for submitting a tree by-law proposal in the coming year. Lori will follow up with Barbara and bring her up to date on her meeting with selectman Laurie Bent. TAG will need to go before the selectmen to explain why a tree by-law is needed.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2019, 2:30 p.m., Department of Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Doyle