

Dartmouth Tree Committee Open Meeting – Feb, 10, 2023 – Virtual—Minutes

Attendees: Dan Cook, Winslow Dresser, Ruth Furman, Harvey Goldman, Jenn Kitt, Susan McLaren, Andrea Langhauser, Brian O'Hare, Vic Mailey, Ann Parson (chair), Pam Spatz

Discussion:

Ann called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and shared DTC's mission: **to promote the protection, planting and care of trees, as well as to raise awareness of the benefits that trees have for our community.** DTC's structure: 5 committee members with term limits, and 11-member advisory board. Note: While town's canopy is @ 50%, the trend of more trees dying or being removed than are planted requires our action if trend is to be reversed.

Sub-Committee reports:

Arbor Day (Ann): will be held at DeMello School on April 28, with 4th and 5th grades. Eversource will be participating, providing trees for planting and demonstrations. Sarah Lederman, organizer. Jenn told us Green-Up days planned for last two weekends in April. Question to Tim and Jenn, If we do labor of moving them to EV substation, can you help us re: getting them moved to Bob's Tire, and payment?

Dartmouth Tree Walk (Harvey): The Walk will be held on Sunday, Sept 17 at UMass-D; Jim Sears botanist, who planted so many of trees at UMD, will participate as speaker/storyteller. Brochure for self-guided walk and other literature to be handed out. Looking into creating an app walking tour using Pocketsights.com. Ruth suggested a small group of docents to help steer small groups.

Dartmouth Distinctive Tree Program (Susan): Goal is to showcase & identify examples of outstanding trees in town; help people learn and appreciate. Information to go on Town website; invite public to nominate trees; submit form on-line; public or private property. A small group of judges. Program will launch on Arbor Day, with deadline for submissions in August. Honorees to be recognized at fall tree walk w/certificate and label for tree. Homeowner must give consent to have tree listed.

Eversource Practices (Susan): Reported on meeting with EV, Tim Barber, Paul Sellers, (EV Mgr. of vegetation state-wide), and Kyle Barry, EV arborist for SouthCoast). They reviewed annual operational plan for coming year—circuit maps show which trees will be worked on. EV mainly does lots of pruning on specified circuits, taking down damaged trees. They also identify hazard trees for removal, first getting owner permission whether tree on public or private property. Sometimes, not always, they replace with new trees. In last 10 years, they've planted @ 80 new trees. (They have no map of trees.) Currently working on Tucker Rd. trees with ash borer disease, taking down several and hopefully planting new trees but will need to go before Planning board since Tucker Rd. is scenic road. Possible that DTC can be involved with replanting. Opportunities for collab: we can help convey hazard trees. Also, EV can help with Arbor Day—demos, trees.

Tree Survey/GIS mapping (Ann): Thanks to Leah McFarland, we can take advantage of ArcGIS Survey APP; might use to map distinctive trees and also begin to map street trees. Andrea suggested: make sure the APP is compatible with town GIS system.** Mike O'Reilly was GIS coordinator, and when he retired, moved to Christine O'Grady, try to ask small question, like, when you have the time, can you check if this APP program is compatible with Town GIS system; can you input new data easily?

Tree Planting Plan: (Ann/Ruth/Dan): Taking the advice of Chance Perks & looking for small pockets around town that need trees, then start planting. Our first performance site will be Town Hall, a location that needs tree help and which is so central. Ruth: That lawn has some obstacles to work around, but trees

currently on site are in poor condition and need to be removed. Another consideration for planting—that lot will get salted or sanded. Across street is another possible planting site. Dan: the maple trees in front of Middle School are also in poor shape; another possible planting site. If we get approval to plant trees at Town Hall, soil test would be done. This planting plan can lead into and attract fund-raising, whereby we go to business and ask for gifts. Tom McNaught and Tia Bullard standing by to help with fundraising. Meanwhile the town has opened a gift fund for us, for accepting donations. (NOTE: On Pocket Sights, can create link for donating.)

Communications (Ann): Waiting for our town website to be finished; Also accounts for FB, IG and Mailchimp.

Town ByLaw (Andrea): Trying to articulate all the different programs & goals that go into DTC, and put into bylaw that can be approved at Town Meeting. Our goal: To customize the state law that the town works under, Chapter 87, and try to reach further into certain activities. Searching other town bylaws for good ideas; also, researching penalties, replacement goals, etc. Very much in a research phase. We will eventually review our findings with Tim and Town Planner. May be ready for Town Meeting in fall '24. Important that whatever we present be supportable. For discussion of regulations, longer meeting needed.

Adopt-a-tree program (Pam): Many models are in use elsewhere, but we aren't necessarily ready for most of them. The approach we are looking at is for trees associated with our planting plan that need watering and TLC. (As well as trees planted by EV and/or Town.) Once Communications put in place, we'll have method for finding people and communicating with them. Starting small.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Video of meeting: <http://75.147.58.17/CablecastPublicSite/search?channel=2&query=tree%20committee>