

Nantucket Tree Advisory Committee

Posted meeting of April 18, 2024 at 3:00 PM

DPW Conference room, 188 Madaket Rd, with Zoom
Connectivity

Approved Minutes

Attendance: Dave Champoux (Tree Warden), Mary Longacre, Judy Deutsch (via zoom) Ben Champoux (via zoom), Whitfield Bourne ; Dale Gary Town Arborist, Charlie Polachi, DPW Staff, Vince Murphy, Sustainability Programs Manager.

4/18/2024 Tree Advisory Committee Meeting.

1. Call to Order
Dave Champoux called the meeting to order at 3:00pm and listed all in attendance.
2. Committee Acceptance of Agenda.
Agenda was unanimously accepted
3. Committee approval of Minutes from 3/21/2024
Minutes from 3/21/24 were approved and accepted unanimously.
4. Announcements
No Announcements
5. Public Comment
No Public Comment
6. Citizen/Departmental requests
No Requests were made.
7. Old Business

Dave asked Charlie for an update on the proposed bylaws. Charlie reported that the request has been made to town admin for legal counsel and are waiting to hear back. Charlie also reported that the tree removal hearing would take place at the 5/1 Select Board meeting.

8. New Business
Vince Murphy attended the meeting remotely to discuss seeking a grant to create a tree plan for the town. There are 2 parts to the grant proposal, the first is that the downtown and Sconset areas are in need of succession planning. The second part of the grant would be to develop a planting plan throughout the areas of the island that are lacking to help establish a more robust tree canopy, as these areas of the island are classified as environmental justice areas Vince felt this would gain a lot of traction and be very appealing to the MVP grant team. Vince asked the Committee for a letter of support in seeking the grant.

Unanimous support was voiced for Vince and his efforts on going after the grant. The Tree Advisory Committee also unanimously agreed to a letter of support.

After a discussion about how to go about planting trees on private property, Dale expressed that any trees planted should remain town trees to ensure proper care. It was also discussed that the tree committee would come up with a “short” list of trees that would be appropriate for the areas of the island to be targeted and off that selection to the homeowners.

The discussion turned to tree mapping, and the need to complete and publish the town trees. Ben Champoux asked if there was a mapping component of the grant, to which Vince replied absolutely, that an inventory would be a part of the succession and planting parts of the grant proposal. It is estimated that the tree inventory is approximately 75% complete having record of Downtown, Sconset and Airport areas of the island, leaving themed island area to need completion.

Mary emphasized that we need to get the information that we have published, and not to wait for the list to be complete.

Vince went on to explain the MVP timeline and process and what the roll of the TAC might be as well as consultants.

Mary spoke about a tree planting project that planted Elms along pleasant street, sparks avenue, and hooper farm road as they were identified as areas that was lacking trees. Mary also asked about a public education aspect of the grant. Vince stated that the education aspect would be tied into the environmental justice aspect of the grant.

The committee again voiced unanimous support for Vince, the grant and letter of support.

Dale gave a report on the removal of a Norway maple on York Street. The tree was damaged by construction work on the foundation to the nearby building foundation, and now poses a public safety hazard and the tree needs to be removed. Dale also reported that he is working on placing the cherry trees out in Sconset at the newly reconstructed coffin/sankaty intersection in Sconset. Dale said he has a goal of planting 20 or so trees planted this year. The discussion turned to the stump grinding contract, which was explained to the committee was still in the procurement process, but would not be needed by Dale for the tree planting as all locations he has selected have already had the stumps removed.

Whit asked if there was a replacement for the tree on York Street. The consensus is to wait until the project is finished before anything is replaced.

Charlie presented the Committee with examples of what tree tags, stating he would have a metal version for review at the next meeting.

Discussion turned to the sewer project and the trees on Atlantic Ave and how best to go about getting permission to route the sidewalk around the tree. Mary stated that she was advised by the planning department to get the home owner to sign over permission for the town to use the portion of the property for the sidewalk.

Dale discussed the upcoming tree giveaway for the following weekend, Lilacs, Ginkos and River Birtch would be given away.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 with unanimously approval.

Respectfully submitted by:

Charlie Polachi

Next Meeting Scheduled June 20th at 3:00pm in the DPW Conference room with zoom available.