

Nantucket Tree Advisory Committee

Posted meeting of May 23, 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

5/23/2024 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 4/18/2024
Minutes from 4/18/24 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 opened old business with a discussion about the mitigation of the Linden Tree at 39 Hooper farm road. Charlie advised the Committee that the state allows a 1:1 replacement cost for trees where permission has been granted. Ben Champoux suggested that the replacement dollar amount could be split over a few trees for the town rather than one large tree. Judy asked if there are existing precedents for mitigation payment for permissible tree removals. Dave explained that when Rob McNeil was the director that mitigation payments used to be made directly to a local nursery as credits towards the DPW tree account. In the case of west creek road, the mitigation fee was calculated using \$500 per caliper inch equating to \$12000. Ben suggested that in all cases moving forward that the Committee needs to set the mitigation fee moving forward so it is no longer arbitrary or vague. Discussion continued as to how best to use mitigation funds, and whatever is decided should be mathematically unambiguous. Mary stated that when we communicate with the owners of 39 hooper farm that we clearly state that the mitigation number is based on a 24" Linde,

which is translated into dollars and those dollars translate into what tree or trees the committee chooses and that we are not requiring a Linden be replanted. Dale stated he would prefer to not replant a Linden. Dave said he would do some research and will bring it back to the next meeting for follow up. Judy asked what would happen to the money from the mitigation if there was extra after replanting the new tree on the property. Dave responded that the remaining funds would go into the towns account at surfing hydrangea. Judy asked if a Linden would have to be replanted to which Dave responded that he and Dale would make an appropriate choice of tree and exact location on property would be selected after construction was completed.

14 West Creek Elms:

Dave refreshed the committee on the decision from the Select board to allow the removal of an Elm from the property at 14 West creek road and the required mitigation. He further explained that to the best of his knowledge, no mitigation payment has been paid. Mary Longacre explained that the reason for asking for the tree to be removed is that property owners were unaware that the Elm was a Town Tree and that had they known it may have influenced their purchase of the property. It should now be known by everybody that the tree is a town tree and thus if the property is sold, the permission should be revoked. Dave asked that a memo be drafted to the Select Board to revoke the permission to remove the tree as payment has not been paid, the proposed project has not been built and the property is now for sale. the consensus of the committee that the agreement should be null and void. Ben asked what the 1:1 mitigation would be. Ben reinforced Mary's position. Judy asked if the purchasers would know if the trees would be known to be town trees. It was confirmed that the tree do have a medallion marking them as town trees. Whit suggested that going forward any removal be tied to a specific set of plans not just a property.

Tree Planting:

Dale gave a report on tree planting. A London Plane tree was planted in font of Visitors services. He is hoping to add a few cherries on south water street. Dave asked about planting along steamboat warf. Dale stated that due to flooding and water table the proper tree and raised beds will be required. Dale stated that the contract for stump grinding is out and close to being closed. Dave asked Dale about the standing of the accounts at Surfing Hydrangea, he stated that there should be \$3000 in one account and should be \$5000 in an other.

Tree Medallions:

Dave asked for an update on the tree medallions. Charlie shared a sample of the proposed medallions, suggested that the QR code connect to the Tree Advisory Committee web page. Ben stated that the most important part is that there is an identifiable number for each tree, so they can be recorded into the GIS when the mapping happens.

Dave updated on the GIS mapping conversation he had with Will DelErba. Will said he did have the raw data and that it would be most useful as a starting point for an arboriculture firm to create a tree inventory for the town that is proposed as part of the grant Vince Murphy is working on.

Whit asked if the dead wood in the swap maple at the Higenbotham property(need proper spelling) be removed. The owners have prohibited Dale from working on the tree. Dave stated that it is a town tree according to the list of conditions for what makes a town tree. Whit asked if the tree could be worked on under the condition that it presents a safety hazard.

8. New Business
No new buisness

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted by:

Charlie Polachi

Next Meeting Scheduled June 27th at 3:00pm in the DPW Conference room with zoom available.