

Trees for Watertown Minutes
Board Meeting September 6, 2017
Sasaki Associates, 64 Pleasant Street

Board members present:: Jane Holden, David Jay, Genie Johnson, Bob Lauricella, Libby Shaw, Michele Waldman.

Absent: Dennis Duff

TFW members present: Michelle Cokonougher, David Meshoulam, Michael Moran, Mieke Moran, Maureen O'Sullivan, Katy Wolff

Guest: Caroline Bays

The August 2017 minutes were accepted unanimously.

There was a favorable front-page article in the 8/13/17 Boston Globe West Section about David Meshoulam's Teen Tree Stewardship Program this past summer. This program has received stellar publicity and lots of positive community feedback. The board warmly thanked David and are enthusiastic to see it continue.

On Sept. 25 a joint committee of the Town Council Subcommittee on Public Works and Subcommittee on Rules and Ordinances will discuss a possible tree ordinance. Susan Falkoff proposed this discussion with support from Aaron Dushku. Ken Woodland (Rules & Ordinances Subcommittee Chairman) is chairing this meeting. Chris Hayward has said he does not have adequate time nor budget to support a tree ordinance. Tree wardens in municipalities with a tree ordinance have told him that enforcement takes up a majority of their time.

The Faire on the Square will be Saturday, September 23. Libby will set up the table and staff it for the duration (10am - 4pm). Several board members signed up tonight to help out at the TFW table throughout the day.

The TFW Annual Meeting and Day of Engagement will be Sunday, September 24, starting with setup at 1 pm at the Library. People are going to advertise in various media. DavidM will prepare a press release.

Day of Engagement activities: A Tree Stewardship Program teen participant will give a presentation about the program. DavidM will demonstrate the Watertown tree map app. Jane Holden will introduce the Big Tree Contest. Michele Waldman will work with kids at an activities table. DavidM and Michele will meet to plan kids activities. David Jay has an idea for a kids activity as well, using tree seeds, googly eyes and glue. DavidM will meet with Leslie Evans, graphic designer, who might also participate. Michael Moran will run the audiovisual system. Various of us will bring food and drink. The movie for the Day of Engagement will be "The Man Who Planted Trees."

The Big Tree contest will be for the biggest submitted tree (largest DBH) of several species: oak, maple, white pine, sycamore, ginkgo, as verified by TFW. Kids through 8th grade can participate. The contest will close on October 31. The awards will be gift certificates to Belmont Books.

New members Michael and Mieke Moran brought to TFW's attention that their Edgecliff Road neighborhood has lost many street trees, the latest being a tree in front of their house which Chris Hayward determined was a hazard. The neighborhood may organize for a well-designed neighborhood tree planting.

Concern was expressed that hazard tree designation is now assigned too quickly to veteran trees, stemming from a \$1M liability suit won against Watertown by a Franklin Street resident several years ago..

Michelle C reported there will be an Arsenal Park community meeting at the Commander's Mansion on October 11, concerning an easement for a road, as well as general input.

The email account treesforwatertown@gmail.com created some years ago would be helpful to use now, but we need to find out who created it and what the password is.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Lauricella, Secretary