

Trees for Watertown Board Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2019
Sasaki Associates, 64 Pleasant Street

Board members present: Dennis J. Duff, Genie Johnson, Bob Lauricella, David Meshoulam, Michael Moran, Libby Shaw, Michele Waldman.

TFW members present: Michelle Cokonougher, Lissa Gifford, Ellen Menounos, Ann Munson, Pam Phillips

Guest: Dylan Hickey

Ellen Menounos introduced herself: 15 years in Watertown, horticulturist for construction company in Waltham, residential mostly, plant purchasing. Masters in Environmental Science at Antioch in Keene NH, has 3rd grader at Lowell School. Worked at Boston Architectural College. Jim Gorman was her horticulture teacher there; learned everything about trees from him.

March 20 TFW minutes

After correcting dates for Arbor Day and one typo, the March 20 meeting minutes were approved unanimously with Dennis voting Present since he wasn't at the March meeting. (DavidM moved, Michael seconded)

TODO LIBBY bring a summary **financial statement** for review next month.

Tree Warden Report (phone conversation with Chris Hayward). See attached doc for details.

Silver maple opposite Russo's

Someone asked how this tree is doing. When the contractors using that property for apartment module storage came before the ZBA to ask for an extension in use of the lot, Dennis got them to protect the tree at least to the drip line, with a barrel barrier. He said they did, and the job is pretty much finished now.

WFCC gas leak project

Anne Munson asked for some help in figuring out how to find where super emitter gas leaks are in Watertown. 7% of gas leaks are super emitters, i.e. are in danger of combusting. Any gas leaks are bad for trees, can seep sideways in the soil and suffocate nearby trees. There can be much less die-off of town-planted trees if leaky sites are avoided or fixed. There's an MAPC gas sensor with a price tag of around \$2000; Arlington bought one for the tree warden to test sites before planting trees.

Case in point: there's still a gas smell by the Watertown Delta.

DavidM asked if WFCC has looked at the HEET map for Watertown; Ann said the HEET map doesn't say where super emitters are.

DavidM mentioned that Bob Ackley, who has a car specially outfitted to detect and record natural gas leaks, came and spoke with the 2018 Teens for Trees program. Libby mentioned that for several years Bob has made annual visits to work with Julia Malakie to test Newton Tree Conservancy planting sites.

TODO Libby: email Julia's contact info to Ann.

TFW Teens for Trees 2019 - fundraising ideas

Shana Puchtler has offered a \$2500 matching grant this year.

David will be working on engaging with corporations, we will need big donors this year.

David has been talking with Jane Holden about holding a fundraiser. Jane's son owns Branch Line Restaurant, and is willing to provide that venue in late May or early June. They would offer light munchies for free, with a cash bar.

The Board discussed best time of day, and whether to ticket. Consensus was ticketing is hard but is valuable. Michele offered to help with organizing this fundraiser.

Ann Munson offered too; she has watched her daughter do three of these.

Ticketing is hard but useful for getting a head count to give Branch Line, e.g. for food.

Important to get auction items that people are interested in. Display them someplace in advance for a week, in a site that gets lots of passers-by. Ann's daughter did it at the Boston Sports Club. Can be pictures of items.

Lissa suggested a room at 20 Summer, where the Hatch space is. The space can be seen from Summer where a lot of people go by. Could go in the window in the hairdressing salon. Use a QR code perhaps. MicheleW suggested pictures of auction items at the library.

Ann: Try to pick a time that doesn't conflict with WFCC's calendar. They're doing a Green New Deal project. Progressive Watertown also has a big calendar.

Ellen suggested picking a time when families with kids can come.

MichelleC suggested auctioning dinner at a restaurant. MicheleW suggested going to Tesla and Lexis dealerships. Ann said it was amazing how many people responded to Ann's daughter's email appeal. Sports-celebrity-signed items are good. Big Pappy.

DavidM will use Teens for Trees program letterhead to look for auction items. MichelleC said Not Your Average Joe puts 10% of meal toward charitable items. She knows the managers. Bertucci's does that too.

TFW Teens for Trees 2019 - teen leader position

David introduced Dylan, who was in the T4T2018 program last summer, as a possible Teen Leader. Dylan will be a senior next year. Said Dylan has a good eye for trees. The plan is for the teens to do neighborhood outreach and tree care, working with Chris. Will try to reproduce and improve what worked well last year.

This would be employment rather than an internship. With an hourly wage, not a flat fee. Must be similar to lifeguard wages. The funds would not come from the WCF. \$1700,.

MicheleW suggested a nursery, like Mahoney's, or Russell, might fund this position.

David said Mt Auburn Cemetery might be interested too.

TODO David will reach out to MAC.

Ellen has a lot of nursery contacts, happy to make phone calls. Though she said in kind donation might be better, since like farming the nursery business is not an easy business financially.

Dennis mentioned that Bigelow made a ton of money providing trees for the Greenway.

Michele suggested this work might be pre-college credit for Dylan. Could possibly be arranged through UMass Amherst. UMass urban forestry program is said to be moving to Newton to the former Mount Ida College.

TODO David: follow up on these possibilities.

Armenia Tree Project is celebrating their 25th anniversary May 14 at the Commander's Mansion, 6-8 pm. Carolyn Mugar founded it 25 years ago.

101 N Beacon Development -- Community Meeting

Libby and Bob both spoke of the trees on this property that will likely be destroyed. Both plan to be at the meeting next week.

Libby was very impressed with the four big American sycamores at the center of the property.

Friends of Bees Tree Pollinator Project

Pam proposed a volunteer survey to look for pollinating insects in the canopies of flowering street trees. Pam said she probably should have talked about this two months ago since flowering trees begin very early. Any early pollen source early is really valuable. She didn't have a specific survey protocol in mind -- just go to each tree, stand under it, give it a few minutes for insects to return, look up to see if any insects are visiting, and record this. She noted in OpenTreeMap that Watertown has 478 Callery pears and 412 red maples as street trees. Are cultivars getting fewer pollinators than native species? DavidM thinks he may be able to figure out how to add an insect-recording parameter to the OpenTreeMap database. Genie said it can be difficult to distinguish cultivars, for instance among red maples, or among Prunus species where there are lots of different cultivars.

Respectfully submitted, Libby Shaw