



West Newbury Tree Committee

Location: Remote on Zoom
Thursday November 16, 2023

Present: Fred Chanania, Chair; Molly Hawkins, Co-Chair; Kelly Scott, Secretary; Claudia Woods, Public Relations; Dianna Denning, Cynthia Coburn (member of public), Diane Hughes (member of public)

Minutes

Started 5:28 pm	
October Meeting Minutes	Motioned to accept and seconded, voted to accept unanimously
Cynthia Coburn, Diane Hughes	Cynthia has applied to join, Diane is just visiting Cynthia is interested because she has planted tons of trees and trees have always been a great interest. We welcome her participation.
Annual Report Discussion	Motioned to accept draft as written, seconded and voted to approve
Town Forum Events Follow-up	Successful nights and good conversations. An email list was created for 12-15 people who are interested in more information about ordering trees through Chestnut Ridge. Fred to talk with Chestnut Ridge about process for aggregating orders and to send out email to those on the list with that information.
October Training Opportunities Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Molly and Fred attended the Town Forest Conference sponsored by DCR in Ashland in October. Ashland has a 400+ acre town forest that provides a focal point for tree appreciation in Ashland, which has had a Tree Committee since the 1940's. The Town Manager spoke about how much he loves the Town Forest. It was a great demonstration of how a town can bring people together to appreciate and steward their green spaces. • We have a lot more forest than Ashland in that we have the Mill Pond, Pipestave/Riverbend areas but there is not a central Town Forest like there is in Ashland. Among the take home ideas were reaching out to the scout troops to engage young folks and contacting the New England Forest Foundation as an information resource for homeowners. • Diana attended the Tree Stewardship training in October, which was held by MA DCR. She identified two great online resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ITrees – a GIS based system that allows one to calculate a value for services provided by trees. Fred has used this system and suggested that it may not be particularly user-friendly to persons inexperienced in GIS, but it can be useful to evaluate an area for tree cover. ○ Database developed by a State etymologist at UMass and if you enter the name of a plant, the website tells you what insects might invade. <p>Fred will continue to forward information about future trainings. Claudia suggested planning for outreach for local youth.</p>
FY2025 budget	Draft Budget Request for FY 2025 is \$1820, which is essentially

	<p>level funding. As needed, there are other funding mechanisms that we can pursue, such as a Town Warrant Article like the article that appropriated \$60,000 for Emerald Ash Borer injections. A motion to adopt draft FY2025 budget was seconded and voted unanimously. Fred will forward this to the DPW for inclusion in the DPW budget request.</p>
<p>Spring 2024 Priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach –scouts or youth groups, Charter Schools • Bulk Tree ordering from Chestnut Ridge –moving forward, we will ask the Town to send a town email and, per discussion, we will also use social media as communication with local residents. citizens. Fred will coordinate this spring program of tree ordering, double check ethics rules, and will present some logistics for this at our next meeting. • Promoting Pile-Don’t Burn -- already posted on the Tree Committee website. The brochure for this has been handed out for publicity, and Claudia will put it up on social media, and arrange for a Town email as well. The rationale for this program is in the handout in a PDF format. TC members should look at it and get back to Fred by early December. Perhaps even make it a Select Board agenda item. • Beech Leaf Disease messaging –we have spent 2-3 years with educational campaign and action on the emerald ash borer. Everyone is engaged. There are 2 other sets of disease attacking the beech trees. The older one, Beech Bark Disease, is a fungus that causes cankers and shortens the tree life span but is not a currently a scourge. The newer one, Beech Leaf Disease, seems to be present in all areas of West Newbury. It is caused by an invasive nematode, a microscopic worm, that chews the tissues in the bud of next year’s leaf. There are no other known nematode-caused infestation of trees. The lethality for beech trees is yet unclear and, at present, there is no known effective treatment that is recommended by the State forestry experts. Some tree companies are offering a nematicide treatment that may or may not be effective. • The question discussed was whether we want to start publicizing the Beech Leaf disease issue or just wait until we have more information about potential treatment and ultimate impacts. The consensus was that letting people know soon that this problem exists may help people understand what is happening to their beech trees and may help people made good decisions about paying for treatments that may or may not work. We should be very careful on the language used and perhaps disseminate this information around the time of Spring Meeting. • Arbor Day –no change to program that will include Tree Giveaway, children’s program at the library, and potentially a tree walk. • Additional Tree Walks on 2024 - tabled • Ash Tree re-injection discussion with Select Board –what are our plans for trees that survived the 1st round of injections? Is the remaining Warrant Article money (around \$20,000) still available for the next round of injections? To protect the surviving 89 trees, it may be necessary to inject them every 2 years, perhaps for 6 years or more.

Tree City Recertification	Recertification draft will be out for review in late November –get your hour estimates to Fred asap! No action on pursuing the potential for 50-50 State challenge grants
Upcoming Training Opportunities	None
Other items not anticipated	Look at the website and get any feedback to Fred
No meeting in December - next meeting January 18, 2024 at 5:30 (remote)	Adjournment at 6:40 pm