

Tree Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

49 State St. (Village Hall), Brockport, NY 14420

Present: Sam Bingay, Margay Blackman, Chris Collier, Rick Lair, Merrill Melnick, Jackie Morris, Andy Pleninger.

Margay called the meeting to order at 7:17.

Minutes: Motion by Merrill, seconded by Sam to approve the minutes from the October 20th meeting. Unanimously accepted.

National Grid Letter: The Board received copies of the letter written to Margay from Nathan Wright (vegetation management department of National Grid). We are all to review it and Andy will get back to Nathan.

Andy Pleninger's Urban Forest Management Plan: In the opening narrative, Andy presented the six management categories, each of which has a vision statement (i.e. what we want) and goals. Copies of this revised management plan were passed out to members.

1. **Forest Health:** It was felt that the pie charts were a bit confusing to the reader (suggested by Merrill and Sam) and that the information would be better represented through bar graphs; street and park trees are represented in the data but not college trees; Brockport is losing too many trees that are in the more mature range – those which have a radius equal to and larger than 19-42 inches; we need more variety e.g. oak, golden rain tree, Japanese tree lilacs, hawthorne etc.; pictures included for examples and information in all management categories should be of Brockport and Brockport trees.

2. **Forest Protection:** Brockport needs clearly defined policies, standards and specifications re: urban forest protection; an advisor on payroll is needed (maybe Andy); excessive utility pruning a problem; and again, too many maples!; there was a suggestion that charts, graphs and pictures all be moved to the left hand side of each page of the article – wording will be to the right to make a clearer presentation.

3. **Management:** Members discussed tree removal – should the tree board monitor tree removal and have final say over the DPW?; should DPW inform us before any tree is removed?; Margay will visit Paul Feeley in Fairport to discuss their situation (their tree board has more authority); does the tree board have enough expertise to deem a tree should be cut down?; Rick suggested bringing in a consultant for more difficult matters and also having more trained staff for taking down large trees; tree removal rate is too high; Andy will try and meet with

Harry; Merrill felt that that it is definitely important to recognize other organizations' interests in the urban forest and to work with them. What are their responsibilities?; more grants are needed!

4) **Public Safety:** This section is quite self-explanatory. Again, it was suggested that a qualified arborist would be beneficial to the tree board.

5) **Community Involvement and Education:** There was little discussion here. Sam would like the tree inventory for the college campus. Rick said that there was only information for the north end of the campus but would get that to him. Rick informed us that for every tree removed from the campus, two were planted in its place. Once again, it was noted that we need Brockport photos and data for the plan.

6) **Funding:** Andy would require approximately \$900 annually as an arboricultural consultant; once this urban forestry plan is completed, the board will be eligible to apply for a citizen pruning grant and maintenance grants.

The tree board members are to review appendix 1 – Goals and Action Steps by Year. Andy would like us to discuss this draft as a group at our next meeting in December. Andy will not be there but we will get back to him.

Other: Board members are to read the rest of the document and to come prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

Margay will meet with Fairport tree people.

A copy of this plan will be given to Harry and he will be asked to attend the January meeting.

Jackie needs a lift to and from the future meetings. Merrill drove her home after this one.

Next meeting to be held on Tuesday December 15, 2015, 7:00 P.M. at the village hall.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15; motion by Margay, seconded by Merrill.

Chris Collier, Secretary