

## **Tree Board Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, September 20, 2016**

49 State Street, (Village Hall), Brockport, N.Y. 14420

**Present:** Margay Blackman, Melissa Brown, Chris Collier, Kathy Goetz, Tim Kewin, Merrill Melnick, Ginny Scime, Tony Scime.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M.

**Minutes:** Motion by Merrill, seconded by Chris, to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2016 meeting. The minutes were approved with changes.

**Introductions of Former and New Members:** Going around the table, members introduced themselves. Ginny, Tony and Tim are new to the Tree Board; Jackie Morris will not be returning due to illness; Rick Lair and Keith Marshall were absent and new member Priya Banerjee was also absent. Melissa passed out a members' telephone and e-mail address sheet.

**Officers:** Melissa informed us of this year's Tree Board Officers. They are as follows:

Margay - Village Board Liasion

Melissa – Chairperson

Chris – Secretary

Kathy – Historian

Keith – DPW representative

Rick – Consultant from the college

Melissa nominated Merrill for Vice Chair. Chris seconded the nomination and Merrill accepted. He will be absent for the months of January and February.

Margay distributed a handout that reviewed the “nuts and bolts” of the Tree Board. This handout included responsibilities of the Officers, Arbor Day information, Tree City application and National Grid reimbursements.

**Tree Management Grant (Andy Pleninger of Urban Forestry):**

Margay reviewed both the annual and 2016 goals for the Tree Board (see handout). Many goals have been reached. We need to re-contact National Grid for tree reimbursements; continue to develop urban forest policies; work on better communication with D.P.W . (department of public works) with regards to tree work – Harry Donahue is our D.P.W. contact person and Keith Marshall is on our board; develop an aboricultural standards and specification document.

Tim asked if D.P.W. workers are trained in proper tree pruning. We should look into this.

D.P.W. has all Brockport trees on a data base and they keep track of plantings and removals. This helps us decide on where tree plantings should take place.

The Urban Forestry Grants are still not in but we will continue tree planting next Arbor Day on South Ave. extension as we already have the budget for that.

Melissa and Tony volunteered to look at the Tree Board data base and maybe do some work on it.

**Budget from Dan Hendricks:** Dan has informed us that the Village has \$4,379.35 in a reserve account for trees. There is also \$5,000 total in the Village of Brockport Tree Budget, various amounts being delegated to tree purchases, supplies and miscellaneous.

**Christmas Tree for Segawa Park:** There was some discussion about planting a tree in the park versus getting one each year. It was pointed out that the Christmas trees are donated – no expenses for us or the village. If a tree was planted, it would be small for a long time. As it grows, we would have to maintain it and be certain that it does not block the mural or windows and still leave space for the bandstand.

**Damage on Arbor Day Trees – Drought:** Melissa e-mailed Keith re: the loss of trees on South Ave. It appears that one died last year and at least two this year. Melissa and Margay will talk about this to D.P.W. re: replacement at tomorrow's meeting.

**Family Weekday of Service:** The college has this event yearly. It was suggested that we might think about the Tree Board participating next year. We need a student representative on the Board, ideally someone from ECOS.

**Tree Jars:** Chris reported that this summer, \$31.92 was collected and deposited in to the Tree Board fund. Suggestions were given for other businesses that might accept Tree Board jars.

**Emerald Ash Borer – Corbett Park:** Five Ash trees in Corbett Park have been infected by the emerald ash borer and removed. It was suggested that we plant trees to replace the diseased ones. Melissa passed out an article "Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Action Plan" for us to read before the next meeting.

**Education Outreach:** Lacrosse, Wisconsin, has a historic places walk. Residents can learn about the community's historic trees by observing and reading about them on a planned walk. This would be a great project for the college's ECOS club! Melissa will contact the club.

It was brought up that funeral directors be asked to suggest the planting of trees in memoriam rather than a gift of flowers.

**Arbor Day 2017:** The next Arbor Day is on April 28, 2017. Please save this date. Margay reviewed the Arbor Day activity calendar which starts in November and ends on Arbor Day. Kathy will speak to Chris and Karl at the library re: help with advertising and activities to support this day and Merrill will speak to Brockport's elementary schools.

**Grants:** We are still waiting to hear from DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) about new grants. The Tree Board should apply for the "Citizen Pruner" grant. This would allow qualified citizens to prune small trees themselves.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M. – motion by Merrill, seconded by Kathy.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 7 P.M. at Village Hall.

Submitted by Chris Collier, Secretary.