

## Tree Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

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

Present: Margay Blackman, Melissa Brown, Tim Kewin, Merrill Melnick, Ginny Scime, Tony Scime, Priya Banerjee

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes: It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes of September 20, 2016 as written and amended. The vote was: six in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention.

### Business:

1. Margay and Melissa reported on a productive meeting they had with Harry Donahue, our D.P.W. contact person. They discussed tree replacements in the Village, and how best to improve communication between the Committee and D.P.W.
2. Melissa spoke with Nikole Van Wie, Interim Coordinator for Service and Community Buildings, SUNY Brockport, about tying together student service activities on the Brockport campus with the needs and interests of the Committee.
3. Tony and Melissa met with Carol McNees, DPW Clerk, to discuss how they can become more familiar with our tree management software database. Carol expressed some reservations about how really useful the software is, and whether it's worth the Committee's time and attention. It also became obvious to our committee members that Carol may not have the time to stay on top of the database. For example, the software doesn't reflect the fact that five Ash trees located in Corbett Park were recently taken down. Margay gave Melissa permission to work with the database which requires knowledge of the appropriate password and protocols. Tony recommended that the Committee explore the use of a Brockport student intern to look at the software and perhaps prepare a report for next year attesting to the strengths and weaknesses of the database as well as offer recommendations for the future. Margay suggested that the Committee talk to Rick Lair, SUNY Brockport Facilities and Planning, to see how the college monitors its tree inventory on the campus.
4. Margay announced that Andy Pleninger, Vice President of Urban Forrestry, LLC and the chief author of the Urban Forestry Management Plan, Village of Brockport (February 2016), will be leaving the area to take a job in Colorado. Andy said that in his absence, there are other local experts in the area that the Committee can turn to for assistance and expertise.
5. Margay recommended that the Committee plan a field trip to Corbett Park to see where the five Ash trees were taken down, and to discuss their replacements. Harry Donohue would also be invited to join the group. We would also want to know whether there have been any additional inspections in the Village

to determine whether other Ash trees are in distress.

6. Melissa distributed colorful pictures of the enemy of the Ash tree, the Emerald Ash Borer. It was recommended that these pictures be placed on the Committee's website for all to see. It was noted that the Committee should have a list of all the ash trees in the Village, both private and public. It was recommended that a press release be prepared informing the Village of this serious infestation problem and the danger it poses. Further, it was recommended that the Committee contact the New York State Regional Forester for his expertise regarding the problem. Also, that we make contact with the Cornell Cooperative Extension for additional recommendations and suggestions. Lastly, it might be wise to contact other local villages and towns to see how they are dealing with the problem.

7. The question was raised, "How do we know which trees to plant in Corbett Park to replace the five downed Ash trees?" To that end, Melissa shared some interesting information about several popular trees that could replace the five Ash trees. Eventually, we may have enough new and diverse trees for a "tree walking tour." We identified several trees in the Village that are excellent specimens for such a walk. The educational implications of such an initiative were very obvious to the group.

8. What about "Tree City Renewal?" In order to stay a member in good standing, the Committee will need to complete the necessary paperwork. Melissa said she will contact Dan Hendricks, Village Treasurer, for the end of the year budget.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. It unanimously passed.

The next meeting of the Tree Board is Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Merrill Melnick