

Tree Board Minutes

January 19, 2021

Attendees: Margay, Priya, Lori, Melissa and Cathy.

The minutes from the December 15 were approved unanimously after minor revisions.

Margay reported that there are about \$19,000 in Tree Reserve funds. We can track down specific donations to Celebration Forest to make sure that they are counted in the final tally.

Margay mentioned that we will have to have a discussion about tree planting in our upcoming meetings. We should consider doing one tree planting event in the Spring and another one in the Fall.

Dan added in money from National Grid. Every time we plant appropriate tree under powerlines, we get \$50 per tree from National Grid and we now have \$2500 total from National Grid. We need to start talking about where we should plant trees. We should double check with the DPW.

Margay reported that we have funds from the Arbor Day foundation grant along with the other DEC grant for a total of planting 17 trees in Corbett Park – this would be a worthy Arbor Day activity.

Lori suggest that we should research where we should plant trees. She also stated that we should plant some hedges (for example hazelnuts bushes) along the canal, putting something edible and good for wild life. Margay will check with the canal landscapers and asks about their plans are for planting on the canal.

We will be working with the Davey group about managing the village's tree the inventory – we are due for an update. But we can't use the DEC funds to purchase inventory software. This would be in the DPW budget. The Davey group's software is GIS based, they would inventory existing trees, their health, categorize by species, stump removal, and planting sites. Margay indicated that she has shared this information with the DPW.

Davey gives one free year's use of software, "Tree Keeper" – with a subsequent yearly subscription or a three year combined subscription, which might be a cost saving. Margay will also check with other towns for recommendations on their use of software or companies and check with smaller municipalities to see if they are interested in sharing the cost as well.

We are in need of new members for the Tree Board. Priya said that she would contact Nick Pitas who lives in Brockport who has expressed interest in joining. If he continues to express interest, Priya will let Margay know and Margay will reach out to him.

Priya informed the group that she had emailed the Associate Dean of the school of Education, Health and Human Services regarding the possibility of planting a tree in Dr. Betsy Balzano's name in the village. She will keep the Tree Board apprised as soon as she gets more information.

Lori will be happy to set up a winter Tree Walk and she proposed January 30 as a possible day for the walk to identify important trees in our town! Melissa said that she would be able to create a pamphlet once we have a list and information pertaining to the trees. Lori will send out invitation

and get in touch with Rich Lair who would be able to help us identify important trees! Margay suggested connecting with Dr. Kamal's students in computer science to see if they could create an app for us to be able to showcase our "famous" trees.

Margay met with Keith Marshall from DPW and discussed the planting of a "Brockport Christmas Tree." She suggested that a Frasier Fir might be a good tree for this purpose. The Brockport Christmas tree will be funded by Celebration Forest.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.