**August 2019 Agenda Attachment 1**

*8/19/2019*

Dear Members of the Tree Committee,

I am writing to raise a few issues ahead of your next meeting which I hope to attend.

**New Tree Inventory** -  I would like to suggest that the Tree Committee (TC) advise the BOT to take a year off from planting trees.  I understand there is a contract out to bid but its term does not end until October 30, 2020 which gives plenty of time to execute it.

Taking a year off would provide the Village, with the TC's help and guidance, time and funds to  consolidate the planting gains made over the last 10 years by doing an inventory of all new trees since 2009 and possibly completing the inventory of all Village trees.

At the center of an any effective, sustainable Tree Program is an inventory of all Village trees.  It is the primary tool in managing an urban forest but must be kept comprehensive by regular updating to remain useful.  As the TC is aware, the inventory, of only a small percentage of Village streets, has never been updated

An inventory of the 1200+/- trees planted since 2009 is critical to establishing a maintenance schedule as well determining which tree varieties have been the most successful.

**Hinman Resident Email request for trees** -  The vast majority of Village streets have at least a fifty foot right-of-way (ROW), the only exception I know of is the Washingtonville neighborhood that has approximately thirty-three foot ROWs on its five streets. The paved area of most streets is generally centered in the ROW.  [Westchester County GIS](https://giswww.westchestergov.com/taxmaps/default.aspx?sMun=MamaroneckVillage) is an excellent tool for assessing planting areas.

There appears to ample room in the ROW on the south side of Hinman to plant shade trees on the house-side of the sidewalk.  The TC should never feel limited to only planting in the area between the sidewalk and curb.

**103-e of the Open Meetings Law** - Section 103-e requires that " Agency records available to the public pursuant to article six of this chapter, as well as any proposed resolution, law, rule, regulation, policy or any amendment thereto, that is scheduled to be the subject of discussion by a public body during an open meeting shall be made available, upon request therefor, to the extent practicable as determined by the agency or the department, prior to or at the meeting during which the records will be discussed. Copies of such records may be made available for a reasonable fee, determined in the same manner as provided therefor in article six of this chapter. **If the agency in which a public body functions maintains a regularly and routinely updated website and utilizes a high speed internet connection, such records shall be posted on the website to the extent practicable as determined by the agency or the department, prior to the meeting.** An agency may, but shall not be required to, expend additional moneys to implement the provisions of this subdivision. "

The current BOT has been adamant that Village Boards abide by OML in order to increase transparency.

**Citizen Pruners -**It is my understanding that the Village's Citizen Pruner program has trained folks and bought them vests and tools.  However, I have been repeated informed through FOIL that there is no list of who these folks are.  I believe there should be a list and some sort of record should be kept of who prunes what trees.

**Waverly and Ogden trees** -  Below is my email from almost two years ago raising the issue of the Waverly and Ogden trees.  It was sent shortly after the trees were planted, at that time it would have been a simple task to lift the trees and move them.  Now after two seasons of growth it will be more difficult and economically questionable.  All the trees at the site were planted according to the plan approved by the Planning Board.  Going forward the TC may want to request review of Planning Board plans that involve street trees.

Thank you for consideration of this email.

Sincerely,

Stuart Tiekert

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** stuart tiekert <tiekerts@yahoo.com>

**To:** Trees <trees@vomny.org>

**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2017, 1:23:36 PM EST

**Subject:** Tree Matters

Dear Ms. Robertson and members of the Tree Committee,

I expect to attend attend your meeting tonight and hope you will address a number of current issues around village trees;

* The proliferation of trees being planted in violation of 318- 10 (Distance from street corners) i.e, corner Post Road and Barry, corner of Ogden and Waverly, corney Seney and Claflin, corner Alda and The Parkway etc..  The issue is visibility and public safety.
* Allowing vendors and contractors to plant Village trees without following the planting guidelines designed and approved by the TC and adopted by the BOT.
* The status of the Tree Management Plan Grant -  The three year grant contract term is up 3/31/18.  Its my understanding the Village has not even accepted a version of the basic plan for review yet.  Additionally, there are numerous other tasks that need to be done to complete the grant including a tree ordinance, training programs etc. that need to be completed.
* Improvements to the nursery stock RFP language..

Thanks,

Stuart Tiekert