

December 9th 2021 MINUTES

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY ON December 9th AT 7:30PM

PRESENT:

Nora Lucas, trustee
Gail Koller, co-chair
Beverley Sherrid, co-chair
Marlene Star
Ellen Axelrod
Matt Tollefsen

1. Call to Order: 7:35PM
2. Approval of October Minutes – Approved and amended
3. Welcome new committee members Matt Tollefsen. Thank you to Wendy Zoland and Sean Gormley for their service to the committee.
4. Comments from Resident – Sean attended as resident.
5. **Correspondence:**
 - 130 Beach – Planting and pruning of trees should be performed in compliance ANSI 300 standards. Request for posting ANSI 300 on website is not possible since it is copyrighted information. They can be viewed at the Building Department.

6. Old Business:

- a. 131 Saxon Drive – Dead tree is entangled in telephone wires. Con Ed will be contacted to address it.
- b. Papes Park – across from Swim Tank. Utility wires by tree need to be addressed.
- c. 749 Bleecker – needs to be pruned. This is a popular feeding spot for ospreys. All effort should be made to save this tree.
- d. Cherry Tree – Planted in small sitting area by The Regatta on BPE. Tree was vandalized.

7. Tree Law

- a. Planning Board – Request to conform Board Roles and Responsibilities, with other sections of the Village code within the new Tree Law was requested. VOM tree law is consistent with other villages.
- b. Tree Bank – The Tree Law should not burden businesses where there is limited space for their business and for parking. Donating to a tree fund is a reasonable request for those that cannot plant trees near their business. Gail voiced concerns regarding tree canopy needed across from MHS. Beverley and Gail to discuss an approach on tree bank.
- c. HCZM – Beverley is awaiting HCZM Committee's comments on tree law.
- d. New Law - Distilling the law and raising general awareness of the law is being handled by VOM Public Information Officer, Robert Ingenito. Beverley will meet with him on 12/1/2021.
- e. Rye Neck Action Research – Students doing research on how to motivate residents to value and protect trees.
- f. New Tree Law Enforcement – Jerry is working on this. 1523 Henry violations were mentioned. Residents raised a question of reporting potential violations anonymously.
- g. Tagging Tree – Gail suggested a tag which gives info on a tree, including species, and how to care for it. There's a code that one can scan for more info. Tag is loosely tied around the tree.

- h. BROW Plans – BROW is “Beyond the Right of Way”. Request owner’s permission to plant on private property when there is no or not enough ROW to plant on.
- i. Tree Inventory – Awaiting update from Village Manager.
- j. New Trees – Due to increased costs (160% increase) the number of new trees was reduced from 130 to 36. The Tree Committee has a list of recommended species. Trees will be received in the Spring in order to get warranty coverage. It was suggested that bare root trees which may start out smaller are better in the long run. In addition, mulch rings will protect the trees from damage in the early years.
- k. Essential Workers Tribute – Beverley and Gail met in HIP with Village manager, Arts Council chairman, and landscaper on November 8th to discuss new design concept with trees. It is a conceptual plan only and will be planned in stages.
- l. Citizen Pruners - Workshop was cancelled.

8. New Business –

- a. List of Recommended Species – The list was distributed for review. Suggestions were made to add Walnut and Hickory species. Gail suggested to add a note on the spreadsheet to indicate salt tolerance.
- b. Tree Removal due to Con Ed Pruning – Matt volunteered to research the long-term effects of Con Ed’s pruning. Can Con Ed bury lines underground?
- c. Liaison to Planning Board – Jerry’s recommendation to have a person on both the Planning Board and TC may not be practical. Nora to find out if TC member can be notified to attend meetings when tree removal and plantings will be discussed.
- d. Block Watcher - Friends of the Upper East Side Historic District have a block watching program to let NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission know when work is going on without an LPC permit posted. Discussion considering similar program for VOM Tree Law.

- e. Winter Tree Walk – Scheduled for 1/23/22 at 1PM. The area on Fenimore by I-95 was suggested. There is ample parking.
9. Next regular meeting Thursday, January 27th, 2022 at 7:30PM
10. ADJOURNED 9:12 PM