

JANUARY 27, 2022 MINUTES

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE TREE COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY ON JANUARY 27TH AT 7:30PM

PRESENT:

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

By invitation: Mary Schaub

1. Call to Order: 7:36PM
2. Approval of December Minutes – Approved as amended

Comments from Resident – Mary Schaub attended. Minutes of meetings are available on website. Mary is an advocate for the new tree law and is interested in the ways the information will be communicated to the community. She has inquired about the replanting enforcement for 1523 Henry Street.

3. **Correspondence:**

130 Beach Street – Concerned about the trees that will be planted on 1010 Orienta Avenue. There was a Planning Board Meeting regarding the re-plantings of trees and it is detailed below under Old Business – 5h.

Jefferson Ave – Concerns was raised regarding the Army Corps of Engineers plans for flood control. All of the trees in Columbus Park

are planned to be removed and all of the trees lining the riverbank of the project are planned to be removed

4. Old Business:

- a. 749 Bleeker – Need to follow up on if tree was pruned or removed.
- b. Rye Neck Social Action Research – Students doing research on how to raise community awareness on the value of trees. An eblast survey will be distributed and results will be analyzed. The results will guide in creating a tree friendly/tree supporting community.
- c. New Tree Law Enforcement – Jerry is working on this. 1523 Henry violations were mentioned. Residents raised a question of reporting potential violations anonymously.
- d. BROW Plans – BROW is “Beyond the Right of Way”. Request owner’s permission to plant on private property where street trees are not possible. Suggestion of tree scholarships was mentioned. A draft letter was presented for Trustees to send property owners receiving tree scholarships and their responsibility regarding the proper care of trees planted. It was suggested to include a brochure indicating benefits of trees to environment and potential cost savings for recipients. Marlene will research existing brochure.
- e. Tree Inventory – Follow up with Jerry.
- f. New Trees –The Tree Committee has an updated list of recommended species, locations (street vs park), salt tolerance and other important considerations. Trees will be heavily native types. Bare root trees may be better in the long run even though they start out smaller. In addition, mulch rings would protect the trees from trimmers cutting the bark.
- g. Tree Law –
 - i. Suggested changes to the new law were made by the Planning Board. Changes will be sent to BOT first with a narrative (Beverley will prepare this). Village attorney will make the approved changes.

VOTE: The committee voted unanimously to send the Planning Board changes to the Board of Trustees.

- ii. A tree bank was requested by the Planning Board. It will not be considered an “out” for adhering to the law but as a Planning Board option if necessary.
- iii. The most recent Village News included links to the Tree Law FAQs, the Tree Law and the Application for permit.
- iv. Marlene suggested we educate the pruning companies so they can advise property owners on what requires a permit.
- v. Request for a tree hotline was mentioned for reporting violations

h. Planning Board Review of 1010 Orienta Ave Plant

Selections - There was a distinct code violation at the property. VOM needs to follow up on culpability and consequences for the clear cutting of all vegetation. The replacement of the tree canopy and the number and types of trees to be planted was discussed. A Zoom public hearing will be set up after the 1010 Orienta applicant provides detailed plan.

- i. Tree Removal due to Con Ed Pruning – Matt is collecting data on this subject. Asking Con Ed for a cost comparison of burying lines versus getting crews up here after major storms was suggested. Marlene will take pictures of damaged trees in order to help build a case.
- j. Winter Tree Walk – Occurred on 1/23/22 at 1PM. 40 people attended. It was a cold but beautiful day. Two naturalists led due to the large number registered for the event. It was suggested that we plan for two groups going forward so we do not turn anyone away who is interested.

5. **New Business:**

- a. Matt shared some vital information regarding the positive financial impact of having trees 1. Increase in home value 7-15% 2. Reduction in crime rates, and 3. Reduction in energy costs. Deciduous Trees on the south side provide shade in the summer lowering cooling costs and allow sunlight in the winter lowering heat costs. Evergreen trees planted on the northeast side block wind in the winter and lower heating costs.
- b. VOM has assigned Village email addresses to all volunteers. Going forward all correspondence needs to be through this OUTLOOK portal. Existing email addresses can be copied and pasted in.

- c. Gail recommended free on-line Urban Forestry Forum sponsored by Yale. It is every Thursday morning at 11:30AM from Feb 3rd until April 21st.
- d. Gail suggested a garden walk for the community that highlights local landscaping in the VOM.

6. Next meeting Thursday, February 17th, 2022 at 7:30PM

7. ADJOURNED 9:11 PM