

Forest Advisory Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2020

Present: Leslie MacKenzie, Kirsten Vadheim

Advisor: John Goodfellow

Guests: Peter Foster, Tammy Newcomb

Membership

The committee needs a chairperson, and the committee has a difficulty with the 3-person rule. Felicia is not able to make meetings due to illness and while Kitsi wants to be on the committee, she is often working out of town.

We need to be able to expand membership if we are to get work done. This must be brought to the City Council, which established this as a 3-person committee.

No one stepped forward to chair the committee. If Peter can be added to the committee, he agreed to be the chair person. Leslie is already chairing the GreenStep Cities committee and doesn't want to chair both.

Chairperson duties: Reporting to the council members Miller and Anderson, preparing the report and scheduling the meetings

Tree City USA Reporting

Kitsi finished preparing the Tree City USA report and submitted it on Dec 30, 2019

As a Tree City, we need to do an Arbor Day celebration. (See below)

2020 Gravel Bed Tree Planting

The trees from the gravel bed were very good quality, with good roots. We would like to expand to a 2nd gravel bed. We need to find a good location, ideally a permanent location. It needs to have access to water and we would like it to be visible so people see the work being done. There was some discussion of placing the second gravel bed in Jackson Meadow to grow out the trees they will be planting this year. The school parking lot is no longer a good location because of the Folk School, but perhaps somewhere else in the school yard.

What trees should we plant in 2020? What grows well in gravel beds?

- Do we want under-represented species?
- Do we want to preference trees for wildlife?
- Peter and Tammy look at what types of trees

Do we want to grow trees that then go to private homeowners?

Should people buy a small tree and we grow it out for them?

This is a policy decision for the Town Council.

Tree Planting Budget

Let's create a budget for the existing bed and also one for adding a second bed.

- Add another \$900 for trees
- We may need to buy more gravel
- We need protector tubes
- Next year get smaller stakes
- We will need gator backs. The church may have bags left over from their tree planting. Contact them.
- Ask Anne if the Mill Site is giving away their used deer fencing

Leslie found a potential grantor. It's not an easy fit. The grant minimum is more than we need but there may be a way to make it work. Leslie will research this further. Due date is Jan 27.

Emerald Ash Borer

EAB is high on our list of priorities:

- Public education – combine EAB education with Arbor Day. Host a tree speaker, have an ash tree ribboning, provide handouts
- John and Kitsi will work on Arbor Day materials
- We know there are 11 ash in the town center area and 100 ash of 900 visible public trees (public spaces and front yards). We haven't done a complete inventory – back yard trees, less visible trees.
- Gather data about which trees the community cares about so we can estimate a budget if the Council were to choose to protect those trees
- Gather data to allow community to understand coming costs of treatment versus tree removal

Work Plan and Budget

Leslie will submit the proposed workplan and budget to the City Council for its next meeting.

The budget will include:

- Gravel Bed(s)
- EAB
- Arbor Day