

Village of Ballston Spa Park and Tree Board

September 20, 2022

In attendance: Mike Towers, Kris Williams, Ray Otten, Ed Hersh, Judy Esposito, Caitlin Parwana, Ben Baskin, Liz Kormos

Old Business:

Some discussion on which tree in Wiswall is suggested for removal. If it is a safety hazard board agrees to ask Village Board to have it removed.

Discussion, update on tree grant:

- Sending out a mailer to educate residents about village and right of way trees, and about the role of the park and tree board, paid for by the grant. Kris will send it to park and tree board for input and final approval.
- Judy working to organize and make more accessible the tree list for the village.
- One quarter left in tree grant time line. Will schedule time to present it to Village Board and get mailers out to residents.
- Ideally the village can remove two to three problem trees a year. Will work on a most needed tree removal list.
- Possibility of an interactive tree map to make things easier for residents and the village, which can possibly be paid for by what remains from the tree grant.

Updates on Friends of Wiswall Park and the work being done in the park.

- Judy shares what has been done so far and what is to be expected moving forward. Four beds have been weeded, sprayed with vinegar mixture, and covered.
- Wiswall Park and possibility of bench replacement or refurbishing. Several groups interested in funding memorial benches for the park. Waiting on a woodworking specialist to come and evaluate the benches, and will discuss further once the evaluation is completed. Board agrees winter is the best time to replace or refurbish, no more than half of the benches at one time- Kris makes a motion to approve, Ray seconds.
- Soil in Wiswall Park from weeding and leveling beds, all agree to allow the soil to remain in the park, behind the gazebo, covered in dark colored tarp.
- Discussion on approving of and supporting the Friends of Wiswall Park potentially becoming a non profit. Still more to discuss and research.
- Friends of Wiswall making a survey for residents, looked over questions and offered feedback.

New Business:

An inquiry about the fake flowers on the gazebo in Wiswall Park, Ray informs the group that the plan is to keep them up until after the car show.

Liz mentions that we have a “tree city” sign that should be put up. The board agrees that the best location is on the sign as you enter the village on rt 50 near Stewarts.

Ray requests adding Kelley Park to the next months agenda.

Discussion about Park and Tree Board members, Mike planning to step down, Ed’s term expires at the end of the year. New members will be needed.

Next Board meeting October 18, likely at the library.

Motion to adjourn by Ed, Judy seconds