

Village of Ballston Spa Park and Tree Board Meeting Minutes 8-18-2020

Meeting held via Zoom

Meeting called to order 7:08pm

In attendance- Judy Esposito, Liz Kormos, Ray Otten, Mike Tower, Stacy Simmons

Approval of minutes for 6-16-2020 meeting- Motion made by Ray, second by Mike, all approved

There was no Public Comment

Old Business-

We will wait for Kris regarding the Tree Guide.

The tree on Pleasant Street has been taken down after board recommendation was approved.

Stacy will continue discussion with Ellen/BSBPA to find original order for the fence sections for repairing the two damaged sections at Iron Spring Park.

Ray shared the meeting with the Building Inspector/ Dave LaFountain on August 3rd at Wiswall Park went well. He will address issues we bring to him regarding the trees. Violations can be reported to him in the Village office or to his cell phone. We continued this discussion tonight when Judy indicated there is currently nothing in the tree-guide we are working on regarding irresponsible tree trimming and who would be responsible to replace? Ray commented that we are educating and not just being punitive. He mentioned the Welcome Wagon that used to share pertinent area info with new homeowners. This will be brought to the BSBPA for thoughts on how to share tree information with residents.

New Business-

Ray started a discussion regarding our village entrances, and that the streets should be welcoming as well as our signs that indicate you are entering the village. There are five entry streets and he suggested a planting of small shrubs, annuals etc. to spruce them up. Judy and Stacy will visit each sign, take pics to share at the next meeting and report as to what might be done at each sign.

The tree list will be worked on by Kris and Stacy. Stacy and Liz indicated we need to make sure the trees we recommend are also available at local nurseries. Tree recommendations will be made according to size, light requirements and soil pH needs.

Ray shared that the Rotary and Lions made repairs, pulled weeds and painted the kids' area at Kelly Park recently. He noticed a 20'x40' sand box that is now overgrown with weeds and wildflowers. He suggested turning it into a wildflower area to brighten up the park and for the children to pick. Judy indicated that this area had been originally intended for volleyball. We all agreed the wildflower garden was a good idea. While at Kelly Park, Ray talked with some families enjoying the park, asking what they thought would make it better. They suggested moving the dog park closer, more picnic tables and a kayak/canoe launch. They also agreed the park would be great for attending the Farmers Market. The board discussed the following-

The dog park could be moved closer and enlarged by using the fence that is currently around the old skate park. The location of the dog park is fairly distant from the parking and makes it difficult for handicap accessibility. There could also be water added as well as refuse containers (some already exist?). Liz suggested we check the feasibility of moving the dog park.

It was suggested there should be a sign in Kelly Park indicating there is a kayak/canoe launch behind the pool.

To move forward with these suggestions, we would need to write up a request and present it at a village board meeting.

Mike shared that he discovered another fallen willow tree along the path (Kelly Park) and that he cleared what he could and has contacted the mayor for clearing the rest. He also shared there are now three "memorial trees with plaques" planted along the path. We had discussed the need for information/policy regarding Memorial Trees planted on public property for the community. Mike will work on this.

The final discussion of the meeting was about Wiswall Park. Liz asked where we were at as this work will need to be presented to the village board for approval. Ray said they are waiting for estimates for the pavilions, but lack of lumber is hampering his efforts. He's thinking there will be more progress in Spring. Ray reminded us that the Rotary will pay for the pavilion that houses the spring but funding will need to be found for the pavilion over the seating area.

Liz asked that at our next meeting we discuss what we can do with the village DPW to get Wiswall ready, aka removal of plants that are not part of the design. Stacy will call Jeff/DPW to set up a meeting time for Ray and Stacy to meet with him and discuss the afore mentioned plant removals and the moving of the spring to coincide with the paving of Front Street.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Judy, second by Liz. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Next board meeting will be September 15, 2020 at 7pm using Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Stacy Simmons