

Park and Tree Board Minutes 5-19-2020

Zoom online meeting due to ongoing COVID 19 restrictions for gathering

Meeting called to order by Stacy Simmons 7:07pm

In attendance- Judy Esposito, Ed Hersch, Trustee Liz Kormos, Ray Otten, Stacy Simmons and Kris Williams

Approval of minutes for 4-21-2020 meeting- Motion made by Ray, second by Kris, all approved

Approval of minutes for 3-17-2020 meeting- Motion made by Ed, second by Judy, all approved

There was no Public Comment

Kris shared the recommendations for the street trees for use at Henry's. Hophornbeam for the Low Street side to provide shade and novelty as this tree produces "hops-looking" seeds, and Dwarf Tulip Tree for the Front Street side. Liz will email this information to Henry's and provide them with Kris' contact info to obtain care info for the trees after they have been planted.

Kris shared that the Tree Grant is on hold from the state as there has been repurposing of state workers during COVID19 and due to current state finances. He will let us know when he hears something.

The Wiswall Park project is still on hold in planning due to COVID19 restrictions. Farmers Market begins June 13th. Stacy and Liz will go look at park to assess some basic cleanup and to see how much can be done potentially by volunteers and how much to hire out for. Money to pay for this will come from the Adopt a Plot program.

We still need to do walk throughs to assess the state of all the parks in the village.

The Board discussed the Trestle Garden at Old Iron Spring Park as it needs to have its Spring cleaning. Stacy is in the process of hiring someone to do the work through Adopt a Plot. The desire to cut down/ remove the Wisteria has been expressed in an email to the Mayor and Jeff/DPW by Stacy and Liz. Judy suggested possibly decreasing the size/width of the garden. There were also suggestions for shrubs made by Liz and Judy. Kris suggested native shrubs. For now, cleaning up the garden and removing the wisteria is of most importance. *Of note, per Kris, wisteria is invasive. There are also tree issues to address in Old Iron Spring Park.

Parks are still open during COVID19 restrictions.

Ray brought up new business regarding the recent destructive trimming of trees at the corner of Ford St and Milton Ave. He asked who needs to be contacted as the authority regarding the removal/trimming of trees in such a manner? Liz indicated that National Grid may trim as they see fit, but private work needs approval by the Building Inspector. The village has a Tree Code that the Building Inspector enforces. Since there is worry that the new inspector may not be aware of this code, or the efforts of this board, Liz will contact the Mayor to get approval for the inspector to attend an upcoming Park and Tree Board meeting. Ray was encouraged to call the building inspector to report the destructive trimming and raise awareness. Liz emailed the Board a copy of the Tree Code for review. The Board discussed possibly using a press release, or other, to raise awareness of the benefits of street trees and the Tree Code. Kris will work on the language for this.

Meeting was adjourned 8:11pm

Respectfully submitted by Stacy Simmons