

Village of Ballston Spa Park and Tree Board Meeting Minutes 10-20-2020

Meeting held via Zoom

Meeting called to order 7:03pm

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

Approval of minutes for 9-15-2020 meeting- Motion made by Ed, second by Kris, all approved

Public Comment- Tim Fealey reported a neighbor's tree that has been deemed dangerous due to dead limbs that continue to drop from it and have dropped in the past. Kris suggested Tim contact the utilities as there is a powerline that runs through the limbs. There is rotting in the central part of the tree, so the possibility of larger parts falling is imminent. Liz read code 186-8 regarding Dead or Diseased Trees. She will send the board's recommendation for removal to Dave LaFountain to address. Tim will let Liz know what he finds out with his call to the utilities.

Old Business-

Wiswall Park- Ray shared his research of Wiswall Park to see what the park started as- sparse. He also shared pavilion and gazebo possibilities as well as the price tags. Ray suggested Public Input – it was agreed to seek public input after Concept Plan is presented to the Village Board by Pete Benfey/Wiswall Committee. Liz suggested we go look at how springs in other parks have been presented. Ray also shared that Wiswall's namesake was one of the first Presidents of the Ballston Spa Rotary.

CDTC Grant- Liz shared the selection committee selected a consultant. They need to finalize contracts. They are waiting on CDTC. There is an upcoming Complete Street Workshop.

Street Tree List- Kris and Stacy had a two-hour meeting to get a good start on a list of trees that is diverse and plans for the future among other aspects of the trees selected for the list. More work to be done.

Arbor Day, October 17, 2020 at 9am in Iron Spring Park at the Trestle Garden. Liz led the event and introduced the members of the Parks and Tree Board. (board members present were Ed Hersch, Ray Otten, Liz Kormos and Stacy Simmons. Village resident Mark Blech also joined us.) Deputy Mayor Noah Shaw read the proclamation of our Arbor Day. Two Hydrangea Trees were planted to honor Bernard and Jean Puckhaber for their years of incredible service to the village. Pat Burnham spoke in remembrance and to honor Jean Puckhaber. Joe Miranda spoke in remembrance and to honor Bernard (Bernie) Puckhaber. Karen attended on behalf of her friend Lisa, the Puckhaber's daughter. Due to Covid restrictions, the Puckhaber's son Robert was also not able to attend but emailed a thankful letter to Liz. Sander Bonvell videoed the event and Liz has sent this to Channel 13. Liz shared there will also be coverage of the event by the Ballston Spa Express Weekly paper. Liz will also check on the Tree City signs that were to be received after the induction ceremony that had been cancelled earlier this year due to the pandemic.

New Business-

Stacy requested info as to who to contact regarding the tree-trimming on West and East High Street. This is within the village Historic District. The trimmed trees look terrible. Ray has brought up the butchered trees along our mainstreet Rte 50/ Church Ave section. Liz said to ask Jeff/DPW for who to contact.

Liz had shared an email regarding the planting of a Sequoia Tree, if it's permissible. Kris and Stacy will put together a response for Liz. There will be other trees suggested as Sequoias are better-suited to the West Coast.

Kelly Park- Mike has been doing some planning work for this park – as well as cleaning up trees on the path. He will talk to Larry about the Dog Park which was deemed by the board a priority.

1. Move the dog park closer and make it bigger with the addition of the fence from the old skate park. Liz suggested separating small and larger dogs in the park. A dry spot needs to be located. There should be public input. If timing works, there is the potential for Volunteer Navy help.
2. Mike suggested the Navy could possibly help build benches and more picnic tables.
3. The rest of the fallen Willow Tree still needs to be cleaned and needs DPW help.
4. Liz encouraged Mike to get his vision together for new use of the old skate park to present to the village board.

Stacy will share the Navy contact person Christopher Smigielski with Mike.

Iron Springs Park- Ed shared the Lions are ready to put in another bench. He will contact Jeff/DPW regarding the stumps to be removed before the cement slab can be poured for under the new bench.

Next board meeting will be November 17th, 2020 at 7pm using Zoom.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ed, second by Ray. Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted by Stacy Simmons