

Village of Ballston Spa Park and Tree Board Minutes

Park and Tree Board

12/20/22

Present: Judy Esposito; Ed Hersch; Ray Otten; Caitlin Parwana

Absent: Kris Williams

Trustees: Liz Kormos; Ben Baskin

Motion to approve last month's minutes – Ray, Ed, - approved

Tree Map and Tablet

Village has new tablet. Liz loaded Diamond Maps program. The database needs updating – some trees have been taken down. Blue dots are all public trees inventoried.

Also maps planting spots. A lot of spots in Forest Hills and North End.

Can export to a file.

Haven't met with Jeff/DPW on this yet.

Will share with Jeff which trees are high-risk.

Anyone can download the software and look at data.

On Account as Administrators: Liz, Caitlin, Jenn (maybe), Jeff at DPW, Kris (need to discuss with him)

Read Only – Park and Tree members, members of the public can also be

Can also allow access to public for just part of data.

Program can also be used to map water and sewer

Program costs \$600/year.

Program has instructional videos.

Liz will send out links to PT members.

Ray Otten – Parks

Has received some inquiries on Kelley and Colonial Hills/Victory Circle Parks to improve facilities.

He's spoken to some people on usage. They agree with basketball courts, something for kids to do.

Ray researching grants that might be available from State for parks. He will coordinate with Judy and Wiswall Park plans.

Spoke with Sean Mulvaney. Memorial trees interfere with mowing, don't look good. He's willing to get involved with designing a grove area.

People interested in moving dog park.

Need directional indicator signs for Romano trails.

After New Year's will talk further with Colonial Hills residents.

People interested in lighting in that area.

Liz – folks she spoke with were interested in playground.

Waiting on NYForward announcement to see if money for Wiswall.

Friends of Wiswall – Judy Esposito

Tuesdays are booked. Looking at Thursdays. Jan. 12 is open. Judy will send notice out.

Meeting will discuss plan for benches.

Tree Stumps

Tree stumps on Columbia.

Caitlin has spoken with DPW, Mayor.

Tree stump removal costs extra. Can be \$200 - \$600

Three levels of removing – grind; grind and clean chips; grind, clean, put down topsoil

Hiring someone to grind vs using DPW could cost a similar amount

Removing stumps would be a new line item.

Ed has a friend with a tree company, will ask him.

Jeff counted 54 tree stumps. Need to prioritize if can't do all. Maybe start in downtown area.

Caitlin will use software to identify top priority stumps and trees for removal, and come up with a budget for this.

Should cost slightly less for bulk tree/stump work.

Should try to get rid of worst stumps first.

Then recommend that when tree removed, include stump grinding.

There is another grant coming out for \$75,000, with match, might be able to use that. Mayor says could use money from harvesting Woods Hollow for match and tree management. Grant should come out early in the year.

Possible to ask homeowners to contribute to planting trees in front of their property.

PT Board will come up with a proposed budget.

Will include money for emergency tree removal.

Homeowners need permission to trim or remove trees on right of way.

PT Board will communicate with police on need to monitor if they see public trees being cut, to intervene.

Caitlin officially new chair of Board

Looking for another member.

Ben, Frank publicized opening on FB

Might be another opening in 2023.

Ed – last memorial bench will go in in the spring - \$1,100 for six-foot with arms, including delivery.

Lions will fix the electric, add lighting.

Might put more security cameras in there.

Future Grants

Michelle Higgins – runs State grant program – was very pleased with past grant completion. Good shot at getting another grant

Ray Otten – Tedisco Trail

Is it possible to make trail accessible from Front St. end? Is ramp system possible? Need to know if village has land next to the stairs.

Ray would like to investigate feasibility of putting in ramp to trail.

Saratoga County Assessment web site will have tax maps, though not completely accurate.

Next Meeting: January 17, 2023