

**Barre City Tree Stewardship Committee - Regular Meeting Minutes
2nd Floor Conference Room, Aldrich Library (6 Washington St, Barre, VT 05641)
Wednesday, January 8, 2020, 6:00p-7:00p
Committee Members Present: Conor Teal, Amanda Garland, Nate Ebert**

Committee Members Absent: **Nicko Rubin, Amy Galford**
Staff Present: None
Visitors: Jacob Hemmerick

1. Call to order – 6:02 pm by Member Amanda Garland

2. Changes to agenda? Amanda made the motion to table agenda item: Urban Forest Strategic Action Plan Review until staff is present to update on Action Item List. Conor seconded. Unanimous vote in favor.

- Visitor, Jacob Hemmerick, introduced himself to the Committee. Is currently seeking to become a Ward 1 City Councillor in Barre City and is a member of the Barre City Planning Commission.

3. Approve Minutes of last Regular Meeting (12-11-19)

- Amanda made the motion to Approve Minutes of last regular meeting. Conor seconded. Unanimous vote in favor.

4. Discuss and Vote to Approve: Mission Statement

- Committee read and discussed two final draft options. Members present made minor adjustments to wording on one option and were in favor of sending the final draft option to other Committee members to analyze.

- Committee will vote to approve final draft mission statement at next meeting.

ACTION ITEM #1 (Conor): Email committee the draft mission statement to read and edit one final time for February Meeting vote.

5. Urban Forest Strategic Action Plan Review

Tabled until next regular meeting on February 12, 2020.

6. Main Street Trees Check-In

Amanda: Performed an inspection of the Main Street Trees to check condition of temporary tree guards. Conclusion: They're mostly in good shape. One tree guard was damaged, likely from sidewalk plow, but the Committee is pleased since it means the tree guard served its purpose and worked. She is nervous about moisture containment behind the wood guards, so as soon as spring comes, she'd like the members to get together and remove them around the estimated last snow fall.

7. Evaluation of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Remediation Plans

The Committee discussed the extent at which the members will be able to dedicate enough time to contributing to EAB Remediation Plan development.

Nate: Believes a plan should definitely be developed, but is curious if it's really up to the Committee to develop or is third-party help needed. Before any plans made, a thorough inventory of Ash trees in Barre City is necessary. Preemptive removal work and EAB treatment methods have been happening in other jurisdictions. To decide the best route will need experts on the subject to analyze the City's inventory. So a budget will likely be needed to have a proper action plan developed.

Committee would like to get more opinions on best practices for collecting survey data of Ash trees in Barre City area.

Amanda: In the meantime, the Committee could provide available informational resources on the City's website? And it would be helpful to contact: Vermont Urban and Community Forestry for advice. Committee can decide at next meeting which resources to place on the City website after hearing the opinions from the VUCFP.

ACTION ITEM #2 (Nate): Contact Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program on suggestions for assisting committee with Emerald Ash Borer Remediation Plan.

8. Volunteer Recruitment Event Discussion - Winter Main Street Tree ID Walk

Committee discussed potential date. Nate has a contact who will be able to lead the Tree Identification walk and would be able to expertly describe the trees that have been planted on Main Street downtown, plus answer other questions from the public.

A second Tree ID walk will be considered in a more natural environment, such as the Cow Pasture, in the spring.

Amanda: She will create a poster for the event and compose a post to be submitted on Front Porch Forum. Possibility to have on City website as well.

Tentative Date: Sunday, January 26, 2020: 1:30p-2:30p

ACTION ITEM #3 (AMANDA): Make posters to advertise the Tree ID Walk and place them around Barre City. Create a post on Front Porch Forum to announce the Tree ID walk.

9. Grant Opportunities

Amanda: Tree Nursery Development Grant - As discussed from a previous meeting with City Staff, the concept of building a Tree Nursery on City property at the Dix Reservoir in Orange, VT. The nursery would host seedlings for future plantings, an opportunity to grow trees for public giveaway events, a site to host informational tree events. Cost of purchasing new trees for projects is the biggest factor in considering this Nursery, this could be a means to reduce the frequency and cost of tree procurement. Additional benefits of a new community asset. Grant is estimating a cost of \$15/tree seedling with 100 seedlings. Amanda is excited about the prospect of such a resource and worked on a grant proposal for the *Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program Grant*.

Committee members present are in favor of the concept and discussed variables that'd affect the grant request and design of the project, including: water access (pump?), irrigation, labor time, location and access points, planting methods (Likely: Trench for bare-root trees),

mulching, and fencing options. Some cost adjustments were made by the members on the grant proposal.

ACTION ITEM #4 (AMANDA): Email Committee Members (Nicko and Amy) the grant proposal, for analysis, editing, then submission to the organization within a week.

10. Set Agenda for next month:

- Vote to Approve: Mission Statement
- Urban Forest Strategic Action Plan Review
- Review of Committee Budget with City Staff
- Main Street Trees Check-in
- Emerald Ash Borer Abatement Planning Discussion
- Debrief Winter Main Street Tree ID Walk
- Grant Opportunities - Tree Nursery Grant Check-In

11. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn at 6:48 pm by A. Garland and seconded by N. Ebert, passed unanimously.