

**Barre City Tree Stewardship Committee - Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2019**

Committee Members Present: Conor Teal, Amanda Garland, Nate Ebert, Amy Galford

Committee Members Absent: **Nicko Rubin**

Staff Present: None

Visitors: None

1. Call to order – 6:01 pm by Member Amanda Garland

2. Changes to agenda? None.

3. Approve Minutes of last Regular Meeting (10-7-19)

- Amanda made the motion to Approve Minutes unchanged. Amy seconded. Unanimous vote in favor.

4. Edit Draft Mission Statement

Committee suggestions:

- Simplicity, succinct.
- Discussion of role and scope of the committee.
- Discussion of goals.
- Help city define scope of tree stewardship and offer support and reminders of care needs.
- Outreach? Engage the public to help care for publicly-owned trees, particularly through education and public workshops.

ACTION ITEM #1 (AMANDA): Build Google Doc file for Mission Statement drafting to complete by next month's meeting to vote on for approval.

5. Action Plan Review

Amanda: We're looking at checklist of action steps/costs from 2016 Urban Forest Strategic Action Plan and update chart to what the Committee has already accomplished or need more detail.

Committee Overview:

Action Step 1. Assess for 'vacant' planting locations: Partially complete, room for more.

Action Step 2. Assess 97 trees in need of monitoring: Check with J. Bergeron on scope.

Action Step 3. Establish tree maintenance schedule for public trees in DTD's North Main Street: Not complete.

Action Step 4. Contact VT Agency of Transportation, schedule the removal and replacement of the dead or poor conditioned trees they planted: Was not completed by date of Aug. 2017.

- Committee Tabled the rest of the Action Items to be forwarded to Staff member Jeff Bergeron to fill out and return to committee.

6. Main Street Check-In

- The guards are not installed yet. Snow is piling around new Main Street Trees.

Amanda: City staff aren't available to weld the planned guards for this season. Her students have available time to build something temporary since a different project was tabled for the winter. They have time to make something to protect trees from snowplows. A protection plan for newly planted trees needs to happen this month.

Nate: Worried about stability of make-shift tree guards, wouldn't last. Driving wood/metal stakes might hit roots.

Amanda: We'll test some prototypes with the students and pull away the gator watering bags. Committee should come up with some ideas and email her with ideas.

7. Pruning Schedule for Fall

- Pruning wasn't done by the city this past season, so late winter will be next opportunity to prune Main Street trees and other publicly-owned trees.

8. Volunteer Recruitment and Event Discussion

- Amanda: Event tabling is an opportunity for volunteer recruitment.
- Conor: Should at least have the mission statement approved and fact sheet drafted before next event, however a winter event is doable.
- Nate: Winter tree identification hike? Talk to interested residents about further involvement.
- Amanda: Likes the identification idea, perhaps an introduction to the new Main Street Trees with a walk.
- Conor: A Sunday walk would likely be best timing.
- Amanda: She will work on scheduling and advertising for event. Looking at sooner than later, so possibly in December.

ACTION ITEM #2 (Conor): Contact City to update new meeting date/time: Second Wednesdays of Month @ 6p, Aldrich Public Library, 2nd floor Conference Room.

9. Set Agenda for next month:

- Discuss and Vote to Approve: Mission Statement
- Action Plan Review
- Main Street check-in
- Emerald Ash Borer Abatement Planning Discussion
- Volunteer Recruitment Event Discussion

10. Adjourn.

- Motion to adjourn at 6:58 pm by A. Garland and seconded by C. Teal, passed unanimously.