

VILLAGE OF WILLIAMSVILLE
TREE BOARD COMMITTEE
JANUARY 19, 2010
MEETING MINUTES

Participants:

Dan DeLano
Tom Draves, Village Arborist
Brian Geary, Trustee
Mark Klepadlo
Dave Pennington
Nick Roth

- A. Meeting called to Order at 6:45 PM
- B. Minutes of November 17, 2009 meeting approved without discussion.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

- 1. Introduction of Tom Draves, village appointed arborist.**
- 2. Plans for the Village Arbor Day festivities were discussed**
 - a. Having a banner made
 - b. Distributing posters through the village
 - c. Set up of booths and canopies
 - d. Having shirts made
- 3. Designation of Cornell structural soil**
 - a. Mr. Draves will assess the tree pits on Main St. and give recommendations for those sites.
 - b. Possibly using it for plantings in Island Park coinciding with erosion prevention.
- 4. A plan for an aggressive pruning campaign was discussed.**
 - a. Mr. Draves has been doing drive-by assessments as a start.
 - Obvious hazard trees are to come down or be pruned after visual inspection.
 - Some trees have been earmarked for a more thorough evaluation.
 - A 5 to 6 year time frame for the pruning campaign.
(The stress of the emerald ash borer will be seen within that time)
- 5. The issue of the eminent Emerald Ash Borer infestation was discussed at length.**
 - a. Mr. Draves recommended a thorough evaluation of Ash population to see what is worth treating and saving. He also recommended starting treatments as soon as possible.
 - Certified pesticide applicator is required

- If treating trees, you are allowed to keep them, if not (if the State declares a state of emergency regarding the infestation) they must be removed.
- b. The issue of funding directed to the Ash tree situation was discussed.
 - An estimated 60-70% of the village trees are Ash.
 - Warn resident about the Emerald Ash Borer problem with a letter outlining options.
 - Having informational seminars on the subject
 - Having speakers and public meetings on the subject

6. The issue of the Lehigh Memory Trail was discussed

- a. Regarding the issue of the loss of trees in that area with that type of soil;
 - A short list of five (5) types of trees of was recommended by Mr. Draves for barren soil, Scotch Pine, Elm, Gray Birch, Watts Golden
 - Offer this list of replacements with a letter explaining how certain species will not live in that area.
- b. It was suggested that a "memory wall" holding the memorial plaques be constructed to prevent the eventual restriction of future memorials due to the eventual overcrowding of trees planted in a limited area.
- c. The idea of forming a sub-committee with members of the Tree Board and the Beautification Committee was discussed.
- d. Devising a layout design for the trees with Mr. Draves, so to let the trees grow to their fullest potential.
- e. Possibly having more benches and water fountains.
- f. Possibly getting local scouting group to work on trail.
- g. Possibly promoting a sponsored maintenance program of Memory Trail by 4 or 5 local (landscaping) companies.

7. 2010 Spring Planting

- a. A preliminary list was formed for this springs planting, satisfying all the resident requests. Further evaluation will be needed when the snow melts.
- b. Mr. Draves will recommend types of trees for this planting; such as in high traffic and salt prone areas.

8. Living Village Holiday Tree

- a. In order to eliminate the problem of the decorative holiday tree in front of village hall, the suggestion was made to plant an evergreen tree in that location. It was suggested that a tree that would not be pushed around by wind (and lose decorations) might be a good idea. Tom Draves will assess and recommend a species that would work best in that situation.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 16, 2010 at 6:30pm
Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Dan DeLano

Submitted February 4, 2010