



DOVER TREE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

7:00 PM

July 18th, 2023

Held Remotely Via Zoom

Members Participating: Val Lin, Shannon Crotty, Angela Lin, Jay Crocker, Janet Bowser

Opening: Chair Val Lin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

I. Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for May 3rd, and June 27th were reviewed, discussed, and passed unanimously.

II. Discussion about Tree-Related Events in Dover

The committee discussed the large parcels that recently sold on the open market. One 17 acre parcel was a private sale to Pulte Homes and a large development is proposed for that location. It is unclear if there are other large developments planned for the other multi-acre parcels in Dover. There are 4 single family homes planned for the Troutbook neighborhood via the 40B process, and the ZBA will be the oversight municipal body for the development process. There are state level revisions proposed to the CH 87 Public Shade Tree law and those discussions are currently happening at the state level. Val will work on getting updates on these proposed changes and provide them to the committee.

III. Update on priorities for the 2023-2024 years:

Val is working with Kevin McCabe to update Dover's Stormwater Bylaw with the hope of adding tree-preservation aspects to the bylaw. She will be having a second meeting with him in early August. The committee suggested that a 4" DBH be considered for tree-preservation metrics to be consistent with other Dover tree bylaws, however 4"-6" seems reasonable. The committee also suggests development of a tree replacement plan to support the Stormwater Bylaw. The current subdivision tree planting plan can be used as a starting point and updated accordingly.

Angela Lin discussed the Tree City USA application and stated that she has created a draft of the Declaration which will be reviewed by the Planning Board for their feedback. In addition, she has begun collecting the budget information required in the application. Val will help her gather additional information from the DPW and Park & Rec, and the Cemetery Committee. Angela will ask the schools if they have tree budgets. Jay will assist her with getting historical information around tree removal expenses.

Shannon Crotty has begun creating the outline for what the online tree resource will look like. Our goal is to have something ready to go live by Dover Days on Sep 9th. Shannon is reviewing many other community websites for how they have organized their sites. Val will reach out to Park & Rec to get information about how they created their website and will also reach out to the Town Clerk to get guidance on how to begin creating the website.

Val mentioned that the Planning Board is moving forward with the Natural Resource Protection Zoning, but will need to wait for a new Town Planner to onboard before they can focus on the next steps. The Town has applied for a state grant, and has received a proposal from a consultant to assist with writing the bylaw.

Janet Bowser commented on a large tree removal issue that recently happened on Miller Hill and the Town is addressing the issue. Our committee can gain a better understanding about how residents think about tree removal, and how to best remedy tree removal situations as we think about bylaw development.

IV. Dover Days Booth

The committee agreed that it would be beneficial to partner with another Town committee or board to share a booth and provide updates/information to our community residents. The committee discussed various types and forms of information and fun activities that could be provided on Dover Days.

Adjournment:

At 8:31 PM the meeting concluded.

Next Committee Meeting: August 18th is the next potential meeting