

## Waterbury Tree Committee

### April 18, 2023 meeting – 5:00 PM at Hope Davey Park

Present: Jane Brown, Barbara Blauvelt, Steve Lotspeich, Marge Gulyas

Jane chaired the meeting and took notes. No public were present.

1. **Steve L prepared the agenda. Agenda was approved.**
2. **Announcements:** Marge was approved as new T.C. member. Steve will be the recipient of the 2023 Tree Warden award at the VT Arbor Day Conference on May 19th. Congratulations Steve! John Ringer is resigning from the Tree C. At the recent S Board meeting, resident, Zinn Wolfe, was interested in Tree C. membership but was told to join the Conservation Commission since they have openings. Jane will ask John R. to send a letter of resignation to the Town Clerk. Possibly, Zinn W. can join our Tree C. He works in the tree care industry.
3. **March 21, 2023 Meeting minutes:** Reviewed and Approved.
4. **Tree Care Ordinance** - Need to schedule to be on the Selectboard agenda (1st or 3rd Mondays / **May 1 or 15**) to explain the TCO that we have prepared. It is required to apply to be part of the Tree City USA program. Steve will follow up to get this scheduled. Hopefully Stuart can attend. Also the VT Urban Forestry program has recommended that we change our name to Waterbury Tree Board to be in sync with other towns statewide.
5. **Fruit Tree Grant from the Urban Forestry program, State of VT.** - \$700 award to the town to plant 8 fruit trees ( 2 Plum, 2 Pears, 2 Early Apple, 2 Late Apple) Location: behind the library and near the Community Gardens Water available by hoses. Barb will work with Evergreen Gardens to select 8 trees. We plan to meet on site May 9th with Wyatt O'Brien to schedule the planting dates with the after-school program, and assess the site needs for tree planting, to stake tree locations, remove grass and amend soil etc. and maintenance schedule with the summer

recreation program. Steve will review the requirements of this grant and report on May 9th.

6. **Tree pruning** - This will be postponed until next tree dormancy period **Tree planting at Hope Davey Park** - The group staked locations for 10 bare- root trees (5 River Birch & 5 Swamp White Oak) in the wet areas on both sides of the pedestrian bridge. Trees were purchased by the town from Branch Out Burlington / BOB and will be picked up on Friday 4/21 by Steve and Jane. BOB has separate dates for town tree groups to pick up trees. **PLANTING DATE for BARE ROOT TREES - Tuesday 4/25, 4 PM**

7. **Hope Davey Trees planted in 2023-** Trees may need watering. Need to ask town to drop off hose left next to the hose spigot at the small brown painted building where it was left and used in 2022

**8) Maple Street Cemetery** - Tree pruning and cemetery tree maintenance. We looked at the BURR Oak trees. The original 7 trees are over 10' tall and were planted 7 or 8 years ago. In 2019, we planted 5 additional Burr Oak along the driveway. These five are still much smaller but are thriving. Two groups of three trees each were planted in 2019 in the grass near the cemetery property line. These are not doing as well, possibly due to competition from grass. One was damaged with only a small central trunk remaining. Action items: REQUEST MULCH FROM THE TOWN - All oaks need grass removed and 2" of fresh mulch put down to suppress grass and allow more moisture to the roots. The oaks out near the property line need new painted stakes to make them more visible to those mowing the lawn. Once the mulch is delivered. The Tree Committee will schedule time to remove grass and mulch trees in May or June 2023. Jane will contact the town (Woody and Celia)

- Planning, Planting & funding - Plan for future tree planting in the next year. Look for grants & town funds for future shade tree planting in the large open area between the street and the flagpole. Examples discussed include: Elms,

Catalpa, Linden, different species of Oak and Maple & flowering trees for an arboretum like setting. Consider trees that provide “Food for birds” as in Audubon program for suggestions & Doug Tallamy lectures

Flowering trees possibly near the other two crabapples planted near the flagpole such as Serviceberry, Magnolia etc.

Lilac shrubs - Possibly plant lilacs along the fence line near the entry driveway Other native flowering shrubs e. g. Nannyberry/ Viburnum lentago

Evergreens- White Spruce along the fence line to screen a few homes. Shade trees in the large open area behind the Burr oaks to add visual interest. Once we have a plan, consult with the Cemetery Commission on the vision and possible funding. Apply for grants in 2024.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM**

**Next meeting – May 9<sup>th</sup> 4:00 PM. Newton Baker Park** Meet here first to look at potential improvements. At **4:45 PM Community Gardens** Meet with Wyatt O’Brien, Recreation Director, to stake locations of 8 fruit trees, discuss site prep, soil amendments & schedule for planting and watering and summer maintenance by Rec. program kids.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Brown