

Minutes of the Woodstock Tree Committee Meeting

August 11, 2025

Present: Michael, Gay, Cindy, Achva, Carol

Agenda

- Condition of trees in town
- New Library
- DOT update
- Fall planting
- Other business

Condition of trees in town

Cindy reported seeing cars parked right under the trees at the Woodstock Playhouse. This takes years off of the life of the trees. We should write to the Playhouse and tell them to not allow any parking within 10 feet of the drip line. Gay volunteered to write this letter. The newly planted tree there needs a fence.

The trees in front of Lizzie Van's property look very dry. We (Gay?) need to call her about this.

Carol will talk to Vince about getting the outdoor spigot turned on and will water that tree.

Cindy said that in a drought, the trees will shut down but not die in the first year. However, they cannot survive repeated droughts.

The cemetery committee has put together a report to the town board that the trees are aging and dying. New trees could be planted to sister the older trees. Problem...the cemetery does not really know where everyone is buried. The cemetery is not part of our prevue. We will be happy to advise.

Michael suggested that someone from the highway department could go to BOCES and become a certified arborist. Then the town would have an arborist on staff.

New library

We need to give them an official response. Cindy will respond to Barry with a list of trees they could plant.

DOT update

Mark Kruk, the person at the DOT in charge of the sidewalk project, had a meeting with Complete Streets. The Tree Committee didn't attend. Mark said that the DOT was missing some of the maps and admitted it was their own fault. Cindy said that we should go to the September 10th meeting. The job will be done in early 2027. We have the narrative and maps showing 41 tree pits—one block is missing.

Complete Streets wants the sidewalk on the south side of Tinker Street to go out to Bearsville. Their architect has not included tree pits in their plan.

Tree law

TB is ready to pass the changes.

Fall Planting

Carol reported that the fall planting will be on Friday, October 17th with the rain date Saturday, October 18th. Michael will buy a tree which will be the Jay Cohen Memorial tree. It will be planted on Rock City Road near the entrance to the municipal parking lot. Michael and Cindy will get the tree.

Other business

Fall grant writing starts soon. It's important to get the tree law change passed so we can get grants.

Michael reported that there was an article in Overlook about smoke coming from wild fires. The Woodstock Land Conservancy is very concerned about the toxic effects of smoke. Kevin Smith from the WLC suggested that the town should create a center with purified air. Ed has drafted a rough plan about how to protect the town from wildfires. Some of the particles are so small that you can't filter them out. Gay called the governor asking why NY State isn't doing more to help the Canadians fight the fires, since our state is directly affected.

Gay reported that the DEC had given us trees in 2018 which were planted in the Mountain View Parking lot. 75% of the trees made it. They are willing to give us more trees to fill in.

Adjourned.

