

APPROVED

12/9/2024

MK

## Minutes of Tree Committee Meeting 10/14/24

Present: Michael, Linda, Achva, Cindy, Carol

### Agenda

Cemetery trees

Budget

Other Business

### Cemetery trees

Four Red Maples were planted near the fence bordering the playground in between old maples which had been cut down. Michael negotiated with Terry Reynolds of the cemetery committee to get the plantings. The type of tree was the choice of the cemetery committee. From now on, the Tree Committee should decide what trees are to be planted. The cost was \$750 for the four trees and \$148 to plant them. Cindy purchased them from Catskill Native Nursery and laid out the money. Michael put in a request to the Town Board weeks ago to have Cindy reimbursed.

### Budget

Every year Michael has been requesting a line item budget for the Tree Committee. We have \$4000 in a memorial trust for the purpose of planting trees. We discussed it and agreed that we need \$2000 a year for our budget. Out of that, \$1000 would be allocated for planting trees and \$1000 for maintenance and supplies.

### Other business

The highway department has taken down the old Maple on Rock City Road.

Vern has finally been paid for his work.

Achva will put together a proposal to redo the Mountain View parking lot.

There has been no response from Bill on the Tree Law changes we submitted, nor has it been addressed by the Town Board.

Laura Ricci is on the zoning board and wanted to grandfather in people who have cut trees to maintain their cuts. The zoning revision board overruled her. The Tree Committee, unfortunately, no longer has any advisory power.

We need a tree survey to help get grants. Cindy suggested that we wait for the sidewalk replacement and pointed out that other towns and cities are much more in need than we are. We need more spots to plant trees. Linda said that the new Youth Center will need a lot of trees. We must see their landscape plan. Stewart's got away with not following their landscape plan, so it is important that we talk to the Youth Center in the early stages about planting—contact youth center task force.

Questions to ask the DOT about the new tree pits 1) Will they use engineered soil ESM? 2) What is their time line? 3) Are they going to be tearing up the sidewalks on the Village Green? Are they going to give us ready-to-plant pits? [Some of these questions have subsequently been answered by the DOT].

Achva suggested that the Town take money from the mortgage transfer tax and put it into a fund for dedicated open space.

Big thanks to Cindy for the cemetery planting!

Adjourned.