

Woodstock Tree Committee Meeting

Monday, November 13, 2023, 10am (via zoom)

In attendance: Gay Leonhardt, Linda Lover, Carol March, Cindy Muro, Bennet Ratcliff, Achva Stein, Michael Veitch

- MV reported on town budget issues. The town currently has a line item for \$2000 listed for shade trees, the town was looking to lower that to \$1000. MV requested an additional \$1000 for Tree Committee expenditures. There is currently still nearly \$4000 left from money put into a memorial tree fund. CM asked who specifically is using the shade tree funds, MV said this was the first he knew of this line item. He also noted that Laura Ricci said that \$8000 was rolled into a fund for all town volunteer committees to share. It is not clear to the tree committee how much of that money has been used. BR said that the final town budget will be presented on 11/14/2023 and would likely be voted on at the same time.
- MV stated that the Complete Streets Committee is working on an exploratory grant to extend sidewalks and bike paths all the way to Bearsville, over and above what the DOT intends in making sidewalks from the Village Green to Schoonmaker Lane. Grace Murphy (chairperson) requested a copy of the DOT sidewalk plan that we have. Michael asked Achva to connect with Grace regarding that grant and plans.
- CM mentioned that regarding the Urban & Community Forestry Grant, there are two informational sessions via zoom. The 1st is Wed. November 15 from 10am-12pm. The 2nd is specifically for overview of disadvantaged community tools for Urban Forestry in NY. November 29 from 1-2pm. You can register for either if you refer to the email MV sent on 10/30. MV said he would try to get on the 11/15 session.
- MV said he would make a request at a Town Board Meeting before the end of this year to make a proclamation stating that Friday, April 26, 2024, be Arbor Day. This proclamation will keep us in compliance for Tree City status.
- MV mentioned there is a proposed budget for renovating the Youth Center on Rock City Road. There is a committee in place to oversee the project. The WTC is very concerned about the preservation of the American Elm tree on the property. CM will draft a letter to the committee placing our concern on file for the record. BR will make sure it gets sent to the appropriate place.
- GL mentioned that at the last meeting she attended we had listed as a priority to seek out additional contributing members who could eventually continue the WTC work. MV stated that we have had Linda Lover come on as a voting member, but that the younger people who made brief appearances did not show continued interest. It is still a worthy objective to enroll community support.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, December 11, 10am