

Minutes for Tree Committee meeting 6/10/24

Present: Michael, Cindy, Carol, Linda

Agenda

Memorial tree update

Cemetery

Tree law

Gypsy moths and white pine die-back

Other business

Grants

Structure of Tree Committee

Memorial tree update

Cindy went through the Tree Committee history and calculated that we have 20 memorial trees. We discussed plaques or tags. Many have been stolen or destroyed. All agreed it would be great to have a walking tour with all of the names and trees of specific significance. ♦ There are professionals who make these phone accessible maps and in the meantime, we should continue to hone the list. The location of Carol's tree has not been decided.

Cemetery

Carol will check on Bill/Vern communication. [Since this meeting I have learned that Vern was supposed to have done the work on Wednesday, 6/12.]

We discussed the problem with the vendors along the driveway leading into the municipal parking lot where the Jay Wenk tree is. ♦ They should be moved to the other side of driveway on the gravel.

There are 6 sugar maples which are not in great shape along the border between the cemetery and Andy Lee Field. The

Cemetery Committee asked Cindy to come up with some ideas for sistering them with new trees or when these trees die, replacing them. The new ones can be memorial trees to people who were important to the town, or others whose family and friends give money for a tree.

Tree Law

Michael said that Gay has done a lot of research and work on the tree law and has okayed her request for a meeting dedicated to that issue on June 26th at 11:30. All can attend at that time.

The tree laws are not enforced. ♦ The planning board should the laws and info to perspective buyers.

Gypsy moths and pine die-back

Cindy reported that leaves will grow back after a caterpillar attack. The caterpillars

can die from a fungus or a virus. If they die hanging vertically, it was from a fungus. If they die in a bent shape, it is from a virus. A good organic spray is BT—Bacillus Thuringiensis.

Michael went to a meeting with the DEP. They plan to cull pines on Tonche Mountain. The DEP wants a summit meeting with municipalities to discuss what to do about this situation. There are four things killing pines—beetles fungus, blight, and climate change.

Grants

We must change the tree law before we can apply for any grants. Michael also said that the town must change the designation of the Comeau and declare it a park, so we can apply for grants for that property. ♦ To be brought up at future board meeting. The town has a \$2 million slush fund, but won't spend it.

Structure of Tree Committee

Cindy has been on the Tree Committee since 1989. She pointed out that we used to have specific officers who get elected yearly. That way, there is always someone to take minutes and someone to keep track of the budget. We will think about re-enstating that structure and discuss it at the next regular meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

