

Village of Skaneateles

Tree Advisory Board

Regular Meeting – June 14, 2018

Present: Anne Neibert, Chairman
Richard Westover, Deputy Chair
Sue Jones, Commissioner
Kevin Sio, Commissioner

Chairman Neibert called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm.

Review Spring Tree Planting – Chairman Neibert said that Fernando’s last day of planting was Monday, June 11, 2018, and she provided the invoice for services to Clerk-Treasurer Patricia Couch to be included in the Village Board Meeting on June 14, 2018. Chairman Neibert said the planting went well with only a couple of problems where trees could not be planted. She stated that the Tree Advisory Board has learned a lesson on planting trees. She explained that after a tree is removed, the stump needs to be grinded down and left to rot before new trees can be planted. Chairman Neibert explained that planting right after the removal of an old tree can be difficult because of old roots that may be in the way of digging the hole which needs to be 3-4 feet wide by 18-24 inches deep. Deputy Chair Westover shared with the Board that Bartlett does not have a stump grinder that will grind deep enough to give the clearance of 18-24 inches deep for a new planting. He also said that after a tree is taken down, about 10-15 years should be enough time to allow planting in that same spot again. Deputy Chair Westover said that it has a lot to do with the type of tree being taken down and that certain trees can cause more difficulties than others. Chairman Neibert said that 17 out of the 19 trees have been planted. She said that the tree at 95 E Lake Street had water and gas lines that were in the way of planting, and the tree at 98 E Lake Street had older tree roots in the planting area. She said that Fernando returned the unplanted trees. Chairman Neibert explained that Fernando had a lot of trouble planting a tree on Leitch Ave. because it was replacing a recently removed silver maple. She said the roots were in the way and Fernando had to move the original planting area which took a lot more time and effort. She also informed the Board that because of the leftover roots, the type of tree being planted changed from an October Glory to a smaller Red Sunset. Comm. Jones said that the Board needs to be more mindful of planting sites to avoid conflict. Chairman Neibert added that when larger trees come down, there will have to be a longer amount of time between plantings.

Spring Plantings – Chairman Neibert said she would like to remind everyone that there will no longer be spring plantings after this year, and she said that this will be a good decision in the long run and cause less stress for Fernando. Comm. Jones added that it will also be better for the trees because they won’t need to be watered as often.

Review Budget and Fine Gardening Bill – Chairman Neibert reviewed the remaining amount at the end of FYE 2018 and shared with the Board that there was about \$9,278.50, and the Fine

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Gardening Bill was \$8,725.00, leaving \$553.50 unused. The invoice from Fernando included the cost of the trees, planting, mulching and placing gators on the new trees.

Budget for Fall 2018 Planting – Chairman Neibert mentioned that gators need to be ordered for using the FYE 2019 budget. Deputy Chair Westover explained that the new budget is for \$16,300, and that \$800.00 of that was meant for new gators. He clarified that if the entire amount is not used for gators, it can be used for other things. Chairman Neibert suggested ordering extra gators for other trees in need. She mentioned two trees in front of CVS, one on State Street, and Deputy Chair Westover mentioned a tree in the park across from the Sherwood Inn. Deputy Chair Westover questioned whether gators would be needed for the fall plantings, and Comm. Jones suggested removing gators from the spring planted trees to the new fall plantings. **On the motion of Deputy Chair Westover, seconded by Comm. Jones, the Board approved the purchasing of tree gators, not to exceed the amount of \$150.00, upon the unanimous vote of the members present in favor of the motion, it was carried 4 – 0.** Comm. Sio questioned how the gators will be filled. Chairman Neibert answered that included on the invoice from Fernando, was a quote for watering the trees for the summer at a cost of \$495.00 per week. Trustee Stokes-Cawley said she was concerned about paying for watering if the trees do not need it that week, and Chairman Neibert said that Fernando will only come to water as needed. Deputy Chair Westover said that the trees should be watered every week up until about August then slow down. **On the motion of Comm. Jones, seconded by Deputy Chair Westover, the Board approved accepting the bid from Fernando Araya to water the trees once per a week, as needed, at the cost of \$495.00 per week, upon the unanimous vote of the members present in favor of the motion, it was carried 4 – 0.**

Kevin Sio's Video Discussion – Comm. Sio said that Mike Gorham, from Bartlett, will be working in Clift Park next Tuesday to get the park ready for graduation and that this will be a good production date for the video. Comm. Sio said that with something like this, you need to keep it short and clear on what you are saying because people will tune it right out if it is too long. He said that Mike has done this before but most of it will be figured out as they proceed on Tuesday. Comm. Sio questioned what could be said about watering new trees. Chairman Neibert suggested saying that if there is no gator on the tree in front of a resident's property, it needs to be watered. Other suggestions made were to mention the constant damage done to the trees from mowers and weed whackers. Deputy Chair Westover said that the new trees are planted with a 36 – 40" ring around them which will be already mulched, and this ring should be preserved so the mowers and weed whackers do not get too close to the trees. Comm. Sio also asked the Board for suggestions on a phrase involving benefits of trees. Deputy Chair Westover highly suggested mentioning the positive social aspect from having trees throughout the village. Comm. Sio said

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that he will try to have a rough draft sent out to everyone by next week. Chairman Neibert thanked Comm. Sio for taking on this project.

New Tree Board Member – Chairman Neibert said that Sue Benjamin is interested in the vacant spot on the Tree Advisory Board., and she stopped to talk with her about what the Tree Advisory Board does and had a chance to introduce her to Fernando. Chairman Neibert said that she has sent in a letter of interest. **On the motion of Comm. Jones, seconded by Comm. Sio, the Board approved to endorse the candidacy of Sue Benjamin to fill the open vacancy on the Tree Advisory Board, upon the unanimous vote of the members present in favor of the motion, it was carried 4-0.**

Mayor Hubbard joined the meeting at 4:48 pm.

Susan Poet Tree Issue – Chairman Neibert said that Susan Poet, from 20 East Street, had a tree fall on her house on December 25, 2017. She was unaware of this incident, and the message received was her inquiring about insurance information. Chairman Neibert was unsure as to why Mrs. Poet would be asking her for this information. Deputy Clerk-Treas. Karlik said that Mrs. Poet came in the office questioning when they would be getting a new tree, and she directed her to contact the Tree Advisory Board. Mayor Hubbard asked Deputy Clerk-Treas. Karlik to gather information on whether this was a village tree, and to contact DMO Harty and then Mrs. Poet about the situation.

Other Business – There was no other business to discuss. Mayor Hubbard said he has heard many compliments from residents about the trees and he thanked the Tree Advisory Board for everything that they do.

Future Tree Board Meeting Dates – Mayor Hubbard suggested changing the dates and times of the meetings to help coincide with Deputy Clerk-Treas. Karlik’s work hours and avoiding scheduling on the same day as other meetings. The September 13th meeting has been changed to September 12, 2018 at 4:30 pm. The other meetings will be discussed at the September meeting.

On the motion of Deputy Chair Westover, seconded by Chairman Neibert, this meeting was adjourned at 5:11 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kierstin Karlik

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Deputy Clerk-Treasurer