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Minutes 12/15/2011

Tree Committee Minutes December 15th 2011

Meeting convened at 7:10 or so.

- Greg Watt moved, Sally Naish seconded acceptance of the minutes for the November meeting.
- It was agreed that Greg would chair the January meeting while Sally was in New Zealand
- Committee member roles and responsibilities will be on the January agenda.
- Ed Trembly reported no action on the Chapter 87 tree regulations. The lady from the Watertown Tree Committee had been in New Zealand.
- N-Star is still banned from pruning trees.
- Tree planting program

50 trees planted this fall. Four were refused and planted nearby. There were no pre tree contracts. There was a discussion about the definition of a street tree. Town can plant on private property within 20 ft. of the curb or sidewalk. (didn't quite catch which one) with written permission.

Sally will check into delivering watering instructions and tree gators in the spring. It's too early to know if there is funding for a spring tree planting. Sally will contact Jim Dodge, and also recommend tree species. Sally will also see if a Tree Committee planting could do something different than a town planting, if the town has money.

- Corinna Vanderspek reported on the Asian Longhorn beetle.

Worcester cut down 18,000 trees. There is a 74 square mile ban on moving firewood.

U Mass Entomologist, Bob Childs, strongly recommends that everyone (all citizens) be trained and watching for the signs of the beetle. There is the possibility of a class on May 5th at the High School under the auspices of Community Education. It could be a little later, depending on the weather.

A class held at the Library is a little iffy, since the Library can't be booked more than six months in advance. Other spaces require rent.

- Tree Inventory

GIS Coordinator Adam Kurowski is very willing to help. There is a possibility of using crowd sourcing.

Sally will find out what information is required when she meets with Jim Dodge.

Boston has a comprehensive tree inventory, and is a good resource for questions. There is a possibility that we could get a grant or at least a matching grant to fund a tree inventory. DCR has money available, but there is a process that must be followed.

Eric Sieborn is approachable for help with grant writing.

There are also tree inventory apps available.

A photo of a leaf, and then the tree with GPS coordinates with an app for data collection could be useful. Check out treetools.org

The tree inventory is on the January agenda.

- The Andover Tree Committee contacted us. They have a tree questionnaire.
- Special thanks to the Fox Library support group. They gave us \$3,300
- Discussion about tree damage from the Halloween snowstorm.

We ought to write an Advocate article encouraging residents to inspect street trees and report to the town any damage found, and to look at private trees for widowmakers. We should also see if we can get regular space in the Advocate.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Those in attendance were Sally Naish, Corinna Vanderspek, Greg Watt, Eliza Burden, Mary Ellen Aronow, Ed Trembly, and a guest, Mike Smith