

Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Commission
Regular Meeting, October 22, 2024

1. The Chair, Helen Weingart, called the meeting to order at 3:00. Present were members Dave Stone and Leslie Ricklin.
2. Approval of minutes of July 23, 2024: Leslie moved, Dave seconded to approve the minutes. So moved.
3. Audience for citizens: None
4. Additions or changes to the agenda: Members added meeting dates for 2025 to be addressed under b) in New Business.
5. Budget Report: Dave reported that there is \$1,447.03 in the General Fund and \$4,960.78 in the Restricted Fund.

Helen will contact the Irelands regarding payment for the donation of the Burr Oak and plaque in memory of Kim Sprague. The Commission is also still waiting for the PTO reimbursement for trees planted at Chaplin Elementary School. Once received, this will be deposited in the General Fund.

Discussion followed about how people can be informed about how to make donations and what these donations signify. That is, trees belong to the town and donors get a plaque. To clarify this process, Leslie will draft a statement for this process to be used in thank you notes and for the town's website.

6. Continuing business
 - a). Plaque placement: there are 2 new plaques which must be placed and 12 that have to be replaced. Dave said he'd have more time once the Trunk or Treat weekend is over.
 - b). There should be another fall work party to wrap the trees in deer netting. The date of Nov. 5 at 3:00 was set. Plaques could be placed at this time, as well. Helen will notify the volunteers
 - c). Dave moved, Leslie seconded to purchase up to \$40 of plaque glue. So moved.
 - d). Tree marker update: All tree descriptions for labeling and QR coding should be done by March 1, 2025, so that we can place an order for the markers.
 - e). Arbor Day plans: Helen will make contact with Jane Seymour. She suggested that she and Leslie take a ride to Vernon in November to meet with Jane.
 - f). Tree Health: Dave said that there is an ash tree on his property that he can use to replace the dead ash in the Park. The Ben Chaplin White Oak is still not looking good but Dave is keeping an eye on it as he is on the Red Sugar Cross. He will work on creating a spread sheet to keep track of tree health in the Arboretum.

a). Debrief Chaplin Day: We all agreed that our booth needs a quieter location. We had some colorful and interesting books and activities to engage people in conversation about the Arboretum.

b). Leslie moved, Dave seconded to approve the following dates for regular meetings in 2025:

February 25, April 22, July 22, October 28. So Moved. The Arbor Day celebration will be on April 25.

c). Annual Report: Helen will write this. Dave gave her the financial information for the report.

d). Helen will contact Amy Kraemer for help creating a brochure for the Arboretum.

e). Dave said that we could use another flat shovel and water jug for work parties. He moved, Leslie seconded to spend up to \$50 to purchase these. So moved.

f). The Commission will continue to explore ideas for gifts which can be given to donors or at special events. Leslie showed some crocheted autumn leaves that she had made as one idea.

8. Correspondence: None

9. Suggestions for next Agenda: Dave suggests planning a pruning party for January or February. **Next meeting will be on February 25, 2025.**

10. Meeting adjourned at 4:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Ricklin, Secretary