

Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Commission

Minutes of Regular Meeting

February 25, 2025

1. Meeting called to order by Chair, Helen Weingart. Present were members Dave Stone and Leslie Ricklin
2. Approval of Regular meeting minutes of Oct. 22, 2024: D. Stone moved, L. Ricklin seconded to approve the minutes. So moved
Approval of Special meeting minutes of Jan. 28, 2025: L. Ricklin moved, D. Stone seconded to approve the minutes. So moved.
3. Audience for Citizens: none
4. Additions to the Agenda: none
5. Budget report: H. Weingart reported on the status of 3 memorial plaques: Morris, Sprague, and Theriaque.
Treasurer, D. Stone reported on the amounts in the General Fund: \$1,835.17 and in the Restricted Fund: \$5,169.83.
6. Tree Health Update
 - a. D. Stone presented a draft of a spreadsheet designed to track tree health and inventory. Suggestions were made as to how to improve this.
H. Weingart offered to create a similar spreadsheet for tracking plaques.
 - b. D. Stone will dig the ash replacement up from his property and bring it to the Park at our next work party for planting.
7. Continuing Business
 - a. Confirmation of plaque replacements: H. Weingart will organize this information.
 - b. Review of tree fact documents (deadline for completion is 3/1/25). D. Stone has files for all the tree documents done so far including the QR codes. He will work on confirming that all the trees on the map are registered in the files.
 - c. Installing the metal identification markers at each tree: D. Stone moved, L. Ricklin seconded to purchase metal ID plates for up to \$1400. So moved.

Amy Kalisher will do the updating of the map once the tree inventory is updated.
 - d. Spring work party: set for **April 8, 2025 at 5:00 at the Park**. Tasks will include planting the ash, removing deer netting, and mulching.

Note: best time for a pruning work party would be in Jan/Feb.
- 8 New Business
 - a. Review the draft statement for donations, the process for requesting a memorial tree, required donation and what is included with the donation.

L. Ricklin presented a draft statement to be included on the Town Arboretum website and discussion followed. H. Weingart and L. Ricklin will pool the suggestions and present a new draft at the next meeting

- b. Update of Arbor Day program (**April 25**) H. Weingart has not heard back from the speaker Jane Seymour. If she doesn't hear in the next week, she will find someone else.
 - c. Discussion of efforts to recruit volunteers as workers and possible Commission members. Use of the Arboretum Facebook page and Google Groups was suggested and posting interesting facts about the trees (i.e. what's budding, etc.). Contacting Parish Hill as a possible resource for technical assistance.
 - d. D. Stone suggested that the Commission members could create a welcome video to be posted at the Park. This would also serve as an historical archive of how the Arboretum was created.
9. Correspondence: none
10. Agenda suggestions for next meeting: same as above and focus on Arbor Day
- The next regular meeting will be held on **April 22, 2025 at 3:00 at the Town Hall.**
11. Meeting adjourned at 4:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Ricklin, Secretary