

Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

July 23, 2024

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:05. Present: H. Weingart, D. Stone, L. Ricklin

Approval of minutes of Special meeting on May 21, 2024: **Leslie moved, Dave seconded, So moved.**

Audience for Citizens: None

Additions to the Agenda: None

Budget:

1. Update for 2023-2024: Dave reported: Restricted fund balance: \$4, 752.78 and General fund balance: our year-end balance is over budget by \$306.56 due to a clerical error but there will be on a reimbursement.
2. Revenues from T-shirts and memorial donations: Helen reported that \$40 was made from sales of T-shirts at the Library and that a new order is due this week. Volunteer T-shirts will be available to give out at the next work party. \$210 has been donated by members of the Democratic Town Committee in the name of David Morris for new trees.

New Business:

1. Debrief the work of the Commission in its first year of operation: Members all agreed that we have accomplished a significant amount in getting the arboretum started. We planted, replaced, mulched, and provided maintenance and bio rush to trees in the Park with the help of volunteers. This year's projects will include a goal of providing metal tree tags.
2. Receipt of Connectivity Grant: Chair reported that the Town has received a \$752,000 grant. Part of this will be used for creating handicapped accessibility to the Park from the parking lot.
3. Brainstorm Ideas for Arbor Day (April 25, 2025). Rain date: April 26: Invite Jane Seymour to speak again and to also conduct a nature walk. Helen will contact her. Helen will research getting seedlings to hand out to attendees. The program will include a welcome from the First Selectman, a brief history of Arbor Day from Dave, and remarks from Jane Seymour. Then a walk conducted by her.
4. Presentation of T-shirts for Volunteers: at next work party (July 30)
5. Brainstorm annual program activities:
 - a. & b. Earth Day and Arbor Day: See #3 above
 - c. Library presentations and/or displays: Helen and Leslie will meet on August 5 to plan some activities for the library for September. Activities will be appropriate for younger as well as older children.
 - d. Chaplin Day: on hold

6. Brainstorm fundraising options: **Dave moved, Leslie seconded to invest up to \$300 in merchandise with the Arboretum logo to sell at events. So moved.** Leslie will talk with Diana Alvarez about this.

Continuing Business:

1. Quarterly update:
 - a. Tree health/replacement: Dave is keeping an eye on the White Oak as it has declined but is still showing life. The Black Ash must be replaced but finding a new one is difficult as they are rare. The Tupelo must be replaced. Dave remarked that the huge hickory by the pond should be incorporated into the Arboretum's map and care. Members agreed.
 - b. Schedule Work Party: Dave suggested Tuesday, July 30 at 5:00 for a small group to mulch. **Dave moved, Helen seconded to purchase up to \$50 in landscape fabric. So moved.**
 - c. Plaque replacement and new installations: new plaques haven't been installed but will be when Helen gets them: some replacement plaques have been installed. Dave is going to order metal tags. Leslie and Helen will work on providing Dave with tree content for the tags.
2. Status of locating Burr Oak Tree: A Burr Oak is still being searched. The Kim Sprague donors will be contacted by the end of the summer.
3. Storage material for Arboretum upkeep: Dave will work on getting keys and fobs for storing tools in the barn at the Park. Presently, we are sharing the space with the Rec. Commission. Eventually, we can use the shed.
4. Status of tree identification information for Facebook: this is ongoing. Dave will focus on featuring a tree a month. We must send photos of volunteers from work parties.
5. Set timeline for adopting by-laws: discussion was that after completing the tree tags and brochures, we would start this process.

Correspondence: None

Items for the next Agenda: need another meeting in either Aug. or Sept.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:55.

