

TREE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
APRIL 9, 2019 - 3:00 PM
TOWN HALL 3RD FLOOR – Room 301

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Tree Committee Present: Wayne Cutting, Robert Palmer, Patricia Kincaid and Paul Cotton.

Also present was Town Manager Michael Pardue, Board of Selectmen liaison to the Tree Committee Blake Baldwin, Community Development Director Christopher Osterrieder and five (5) members of the Parsons Beach Association.

DISCUSS THE PARSONS BEACH ROAD TREE PROJECT

All parties present introduced themselves. Tree Committee members shared their professional background and years of experience.

Tree Committee members spoke in detail about their recommendation to remove select trees along Parsons Beach Road, explaining that their recommendation(s) are based solely on the need to insure users of Parsons Beach Road are not injured or killed due to falling trees / branches from the trees that are in a highly degraded condition.

The members of the Parsons Beach Association shared that they have contracted the services of Attorney Paul Driscoll of Norman, Hanson & DeTroy, LLC. With that understanding, it was agreed that Town officials would not ask questions of the Parsons Beach Association members, but would instead work directly through their legal counsel. Town officials did however offer to answer any questions they could regarding this proposed project.

Members of the Parsons Beach Association spoke of their strong desire to preserve the “tree canopy” or “allée.” This sentiment was expressed by all in attendance, while Town officials cited the potential of significant liability exposure due to the poor condition of many of the trees that line Parsons beach Road. Everyone in attendance agreed that the safety of the users of Parsons Beach Road is paramount.

Members of the Parsons Beach Association spoke of their desire to aid the Town in funding the Parsons Beach Road Tree Project. The Parsons Beach Association members broached the idea of committing personal funds in the amount of \$25,000 to be used toward the Parsons Beach Road Tree Project, to include on-going maintenance.

Significant discussion ensued regarding the type of tree to use when the diseased and compromised trees are removed. The members of the Parsons Beach Association requested the Town advance another independent “Tree Assessment” as the one on file is outdated. Parties agreed to hire an independent firm to again assess trees along Parsons Beach Road to determine their current condition.

The meeting drew to conclusion with all agreeing that the condition of the trees lining Parsons Beach Road is a concern, while at the same time preserving the “canopy” is desirous.

ADJOURNMENT – Approximately 4:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Michael Pardue, Town Manager