

## **Minutes for Tree Committee Meeting – June 10, 2019 - 3:00pm**

### **Attendance:**

Mike Pardue, Town Manager  
Wayne Cutting, Tree Warden  
Paul Cotton, Committee Member  
Boyd Swenson, Committee Member  
Bob Palmer, Committee Member  
Patricia Kinkade, Committee Secretary  
Blake Baldwin, Selectman Liaison  
Chris Osterrieder, Town Engineer  
Bryan Laverriere, Public Services Director

### **Discussion of existing Norway Maple trees on Parsons Beach Road:**

Reviewed the Bartlett Tree Report and progress to date on removal of specified (29) High and Moderate risk trees by Public Services department. Work is progressing now with stump removal to be completed this week. The remaining (18) trees will require further assessment regarding cost to ensure their stability and longevity. The estimations for further work on the remaining trees will be costly. Also, their stability will be compromised by the removal of the others with regard to wind and root structure. The new (20) Swamp White Oaks, Project Canopy trees, have been delivered and are being maintained at Public Services until they can be planted as soon as possible following regrading of areas along the road. This planting should be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup> in keeping with the terms of the State Grant.

### **Discussion of alternate tree species for Parson Beach Road:**

Parsons Beach Association members, also in attendance, were Louise and Tim Spang, Sandy and Kin Liversidge, and later Julia Burns Riley. Louise Spang and Sandy Liversidge represented the Tree Committee for the Parsons Beach Association. Sandy is trained in Landscape Design and offered the recommendation that the tree species be varied on this project as a precaution to single species disease. The large leaf Linden / Basswood trees which grow well on the Liversidge's ocean exposure have proven very hardy. The proposed addition of this tree to the design for the Parsons Beach Road plantings was discussed. The addition of another tree to vary the allee design would also be a compromise to those critics who are skeptical about the aesthetic of the Swamp White Oak. Tree Committee members are confident that the Swamp White Oak is going to endure the test of time and elements. The first disease treatment for the phase 1 plantings, gall wasp, has just been made. Additional treatments are predicted by Bartlett Tree Services to cure the disease during 2020. Integrating the Linden into the Parsons Beach allee design was considered by all. Spacing of the new trees is 30' on center and incorporating Linden's into the center of the pattern was decided to be the most appropriate possible variation. The (20) new Project canopy trees could be planted at the beach end of the road.

### **Costs associated with the Parsons Beach Road tree canopy project:**

Representatives present from the Parsons Beach Association Tree Committee put forth that additional fund raising could be done within the PBA family to cover the expense of the proposed Linden trees. The goal would hopefully be to have that completed during 2020. The

Town does not have funding for the purchase of additional trees. After objection to removal of existing trees by some Parsons Beach residents, requiring the expense of the Bartlett Tree report for evaluating the safety risks for the existing Norway Maples, the Town incurred an unanticipated expense of \$10,700. The additional expense to remove the unanticipated additional trees for 2019 has added further cost yet to be totaled. Also, the unknown cost to stabilize the remaining 18 trees has not been evaluated or budgeted. Contributions from the PBA towards purchase of future trees would be instrumental to completing this project.

**Discussion of remaining trees and integration of new tree planting:**

The remaining (18) Norway Maples were discussed. The exact cost to maintain these is not known but further discussion about the appropriateness of trying to maintain these few interspersed with the new plantings raised questions about aesthetics and other concerns. The bigger trees would affect the growth of the new plantings. The eventual removal of the Norway's may affect the health of the new trees as well. Maintenance cost, aesthetic value, and health concerns for the new plantings were discussed. In conclusion, it was unanimously agreed that all of the old (18) remaining Norway Maples should be removed to maximize the new tree plantings. The spacing for the next (20) trees, now ready for installation, will be determined at 30' center increments and planted from the beach end of the road. The center portion of the alley along the road will be planted when funding is available for the purchase of additional trees.

**Treatment for Main Street trees damaged by winter conditions:**

Native Red maples on Main Street require fertilization after stressful winter conditions. Pruning and fertilizing need to be done as soon as possible. Also, tree grates in the sidewalks should be lifted, cleaned and relevelled. The fertilization will happen in coordination with Public Services as early as next week.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia H. Kinkade