# Village Green Committee Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at the Town Hall Annex

#### Minutes

Attending: Felicia Sartell, Connie Kieley, Gail Cromwell, Honey Hastings, Carol Mamczak, Robin Downes Absent: Kathy Fedorka, Peggy Cournoyer, Denise Collette, Matt Cabana

Felicia call the meeting to order at 10:04 AM

- 1. Treasurer's report no changes
- 2. Secretary's report Carol met with Paul and a binder has been established at the town offices so we can include documents and correspondence for future reference. She sent an email to the newsletter coordinator requesting our gardening fundraiser be included in the May/June issue. The flyers are ready to go. We discussed the cards that Connie made to go with the flyer. We want them available for the town play. Connie will print 10 copies and we will post ASAP. Connie will also send the PDF to the webmaster. Carol will ask Denise to post on Facebook. (action items)
- 3. We discussed having notes from the Common tour added to the 4/8 minutes and all agreed that it was the correct place for them.

MOTION: to approve minutes from 3/25 and 4/8

Moved by Connie, seconded by Gail

Vote: All in favor

4. We discussed the report by Ethan Belair following the Common tour. We agreed that the issue before us is much larger than we expected. We discussed what the Common will look like in 20-25 years, the need to increase the variety of trees, how to get the town involved, having a public meeting, developing two plans to present to the Select Board. We talked about tree locations with Route 45 being an area to look at due to increased traffic. We realized the need to develop a map that will include trenching for the electrical work. We need to identify current and possible future tree locations. We considered what was possible this year and what will go into the long-term plan.

MOTION: to approve up to \$500. to purchase and plant a new Red Maple (Red Sunset) to replace the tree removed last month

Moved by Honey, seconded by Gail

Discussion: This will provide balance with the other newer Red Maple trees on the Common.

We will ask the highway department to assist.

Vote: All in favor.

Connie spoke of her discussion with author Gordon Hayward and his suggestions for the long-term plan for the Common. We discussed a range of options for trees and how we might evaluate them for climate change, aesthetic value, life expectancy, pollinators, birds. We talked about looking at other towns' Commons or Greens to see what has been planted recently. We agreed that it would be good to get Gordon more involved and Connie will send him photos. It would be valuable to have a landscape designer's opinion to balance with the forester's recommendations.

Trees that were mentioned were the newer Elm trees in Keene, trees on the Townsend MA Common, Princeton Elm, Liberty Elm, Scarlet Oak. We would also like to consider flowering trees. Robin will ask Alan if he can get some measurements on the Common and enter into a CAD program. Connie and John will assist with others available if needed. It should take an hour to do. The fence posts need to be included since they are endpoints for the electrical work. It was suggested we take garden stakes and mark out potential locations for new trees. (action items)

- 5. Memorial Day planting We previously established 5/8 as the King Farm day. Felicia, Honey and Carol will go. Gail can store the plants if weather does not permit planting for a while. Planting will be the week of May 13<sup>th</sup> (weather dependent). Felicia will notify us so the planters and soil can be moved from storage. Felicia asked the committee about a watering schedule. It was suggested that she ask the church members to take on watering since the congregation has grown larger and many of the planters are located at the church. She agreed to follow up. (action item)
- 6. The date for the next meeting was set for Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM. We asked Robin if we can get the Common map by then.
- 7. Other business the daffodils by the Municipal Building are nice but not thriving as well as hoped. One Redbud tree in the same garden has extensive breakage. These items go on the next agenda. Connie stated that she and John will get mulch for that garden and reserve a bucket full for the monument. Honey mentioned that the grass to the right of the Town Hall stairs is not growing.

MOTION: to ask the Highway Department to plant grass in front of the Town Hall, adding new topsoil as needed.

Moved by Gail, seconded by Honey Vote: All in favor Gail will follow up. (action item)

We adjourned at 11:25 AM

Respectfully submitted, Carol Mamczak, VGC Secretary From: Belair, Ethan Ethan.Belair@unh.edu

Subject: Follow-up

Date: April 15, 2019 at 5:38 PM

To: clmamczak

Carol (and the rest of the Temple Village Green Committee),

Thank you again for having me out to visit the Temple Village Green. It was a pleasure to meet you and see how you've managed your trees and the care you all obviously put into it. We talked about a number of different things, and I wanted to follow up on a few of them now. I've got details below, and a few things attached here for your review, hopefully you find these useful in managing your land. However, if anything is unclear, or if you have new questions or issues pop up in the future, please feel free to reach out.

The biggest topic of conversation were the mature maple trees which dominate the green. Not surprisingly, many of you are attached to these trees. I would be to, their beautiful old specimens! That said, I do not think these can be seen a solid investments in terms of the long-term management of the green. All of these trees have varying degrees of damage: broken branches, unhealed pruning wounds, fungal growth, sloughing bark, etc. While none of those symptoms by themselves might be cause for removal, together they indicate a group of generally unhealthy trees. Those unhealthy trees are likely to chew through the majority of your "pruning and tree care" budget quickly if you let them. Rather, I think the best idea is to remove these trees at the earliest chance, and replace them with trees better suited to the site (more on that below. As such, my advice is that you consult with an arborist about removing these trees. Arborists all provide slightly different sets of services, but most will contract to assess, treat, prune or remove trees from around houses, power lines and other man-made structures.

- In order to ensure that the trees are handled safely and efficiently, I would advise working with a certified arborist. NH does not license arborists, but the NH Arborists Association (NHAA) and International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) do operate certification programs. To qualify as a Certified Arborist, an experienced tree care professional must provide evidence of his/her qualifications as a professional arborist and pass a comprehensive, written examination. A certified arborist is more likely to do tree work properly and safely, while an unqualified person may damage your trees. I have attached a list of NHAA and ISA Certified Arborists working in the Hillsboro County area for you to review.
- Regardless of who you choose to work with, it is important to be selective in your hiring process. Even within a pool of well qualified arborists, there will be a range of experience, expertise and price. It is also critical to find an arborist who is fully insured, so you are not exposed to liability if anyone gets hurt. This liability could run into the tens of thousands of dollars. I advise contacting 2-4 individuals to ask for a consult, which is often provided free of charge. Inquire about their expertise, see what they propose for the trees in question, and ask for local references/examples of their work, proof of insurance and a quote. I've included a sheet on other types of questions you may want to ask an arborist about in your selection process.
- You'll also want to think about the contract process when dealing with arborists. All
  contracts should specify in detail what work is to be done, how much the landowner
  will be charged, and a timetable for the work to be completed. Try to make contract
  clauses detailed enough that everyone understands exactly what work is being

discussed. For example, saying the area should be cleaned up after trees are removed doesn't mean anything specific. Saying that all branches greater than 2" in diameter will be chipped into the woods is very specific. The more work you ask for, the more you will be expected to pay, but a clear statement of the work to be done is good regardless.

A final note here, while you may want to lessen the visual impact of removing these trees by staggering it over several years, there may be an advantage in concentrating those efforts as much as possible. Trees are damaged by obvious things happening above ground, but also by less apparent things below the surface. Once you start replacing these maples (even considering the red maples you've already planted), minimizing potential root damage is the best thing you can do to ensure their overall health. If you can afford to remove all the unhealthy trees at once, you avoid the need to have machinery and trucks accessing the site year after year to remove the trees one at a time. Given that you already have some annual events that involve vehicles on the green, there may be a significant advantage to removing all the trees in 1 or 2 operations.

As for replacing the trees, I think we need to consider why the current trees on the green performed poorly. While root damage from vehicles could be a contributing factor, I think there are two other causes we should seriously consider.

- First, the soils under this property are somewhat poor, making sugar maple an
  unfortunate choice. Sugar maples will do well on only the sweetest, most nutrient rich
  soils in southern NH. If they are on a site with poor soils, they will grow slower and be
  less able to fight off insects, fungi and diseases, or to close wounds when they occur.
  Sound familiar?
- Second, the trees were all likely planted at a time when traffic on the roads surrounding the green was much more infrequent. Increased traffic, increase road salt, and an inability to expand roots toward the road have all likely contributed to poor overall health in these trees.

So, selecting species which are better suited to poor soils and roadside conditions would help ensure their long-term health.

- While they may not be the first choice of all committee members, confers are much better suited to roadside conditions and thrive on nutrient poor soil. Norway spruce, white spruce and blue spruce are all can be good performers as street trees.
- If you prefer deciduous trees, there are still numerous options.
  - A variety of oak species are well-suited to poor soils. The most recognizable will be the native <u>northern red oak</u>, but other options include <u>chinkapin oak</u>, <u>bur oak</u>, and <u>swamp white oak</u>.
  - A somewhat shorter, often multi-stemmed option is the <u>river birch</u>. These trees have beautiful, peeling bark that ranges from white to orange to red-brown.
  - One we discussed while I was on-site was the <u>thorn-less honey locust</u>. These are a favorite of many landscapers and arborists, and are common on the UNH campus.
  - Finally, a couple of good shorter options which produce fruit and may attract birds are the <u>Washington hawthorn</u> and <u>Sargent cherry</u>.

10) Specify all state and local laws will be followed.

11) What is the absolute total dollar amount you will be charged? Leave no room for confusion over whether the price is per tree or for the whole job. Work is usually priced as a single fee for the whole job or on an hourly basis plus materials. When using the latter, include the wording, "but not to exceed..."

#### Tree Work Standards

ANSI Z133.1 American National Standard for Arboricultural Operations-Pruning, Repairing, Maintaining, & Removing Trees, and Cutting Brush-Safety Requirements Revision 2001, American National Standards Institute, NY, NY.

ANSI A300 Part 1, Tree Care Operations- Tree, Shrub, and Other Woody Plant Maintenance-Standard Practices Revision 2001, American National Standards Institute, New York, NY.

ANSI A300 Part 2, Tree Care Operations-Tree, Shrub, and Other Woody Plant Maintenance-Standard Practices (Fertilization) Revision 1998, American National Standards Institute, New York, NY.

ANSI A300 Part 3, Tree Care Operations-Tree, Shrub, and Other Woody Plant Maintenance-Standard Practices (Support Systems, Cabling, Bracing, and Guying), Revision 2000, American National Standards Institute, NY, NY.

ANSI A300 Part 4, Lightning Protection Systems, 2002, American National Standards Institute, New York, NY.

ANSI standards are available from Global Engineering Documents, Customer Service Department, 15 Inverness Way East, Englewood, CO

80112, (800) 854-7179, www.global.ibs.com. Companion simple language guides are available from the International Society of Arborists http://www.isa-arbor.com/

This information was adapted from North Carolina State Extension, Arizona Extension, & Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection by Karen P. Bennett, Extension Forestry Professor and Specialist. August, 2008.

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# SELECTING AN ARBORIST

Hiring an arborist deserves careful consideration. A qualified arborist will do tree work properly and safely, but an unqualified person may further damage the tree, and more importantly may not be insured, leaving the client exposed to liability if anyone gets hurts. This liability could run into the tens of thousands of dollars.

Remember the following points when hiring or contracting with an arborist:

- Check your telephone directory's yellow pages under "Tree Service" for a listing of those businesses which do tree work in your area. A listing indicates some degree of permanence.
- Ask if the arborist is certified by either the New Hampshire Arborists Association or the International Society of Arboriculture. Certification is not required by the State of New Hampshire but it does indicate that the arborist has a high degree of knowledge.
- If the arborist you are considering is not certified, determine if he or she is a member
  of any professional organizations, such as the New Hampshire Arborists
  Association, the International Society of Arboriculture, or the National Arborists
  Association. Membership does not guarantee quality, but does indicate professional
  commitment.
- Ask for certificates of insurance, including proof of liability for personal and property damage and worker's compensation. Then, contact the insurance company to make sure the policy is current. You can be held financially responsible if an uninsured worker is hurt on your property or if the worker damages a neighbor's property.
- Experience, education and a good reputation are signs of a good arborist. Ask for local references and talk with former clients. Do not rush into a decision just because you are promised a discount if you sign an agreement now.
- Be sure you understand what work is to be done for what amount of money. It is not generally a good idea to pay in full until the work is completed. Legitimate arborists never ask for payment in advance. If possible, get more than one estimate.
- Beware of estimates that fall well below the average. There may be hidden costs or the arborist may not fully insured or trained.

Remember that good tree work is not inexpensive. A good arborist must carry several kinds of insurance as well as pay for expensive and specialized equipment.

For a listing of certified arborists, visit the NH Arborists Association at: <a href="http://www.nharborists.org/nhaa-certified-arborists.php">http://www.nharborists.org/nhaa-certified-arborists.php</a>

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# The Tree Work Contract

A contract is the key to preventing misunderstandings and assuring the work is performed to the standards you expect. Most companies have their own forms, and conditions vary widely. Read the document carefully and check with your attorney if you have questions.

There are several key items a contract should include:

- 1) The name and physical address of the contractor.
- 2) The date that work is to begin and end.
- 3) Exactly what work will be done. For example, "Prune all dead, dying, diseased and weak branches 1.5 inches or greater in diameter."
- 4) Specify the work will be done according to an acceptable standard (see tree work standards box).
- 5) If your tree is to be sprayed, get a written statement detailing the specific insect or disease to be treated; the chemical to be used and how much; and what you need to do (cover lawn furniture, keep pets inside...) Confirm they have a commercial pesticide applicator license.
- 6) If fertilizing is to be done, specify type, amount and method of application. Provide a rough map of the property, identifying trees to be serviced, or a clearly written description of location.

7) Specify what clean—up work will be done and when.

- 8) Clarify who will get firewood, wood chips, or other materials. If it is for you, specify what length you want and where it should be piled.
- 9) Clarify if removal of tree includes grinding out the stump and surface roots to one foot below grade, filling with topsoil and planting grass.
- 10) Specify all state and local laws will be followed.
- 11) What is the absolute total dollar amount you will be charged? Leave no room for confusion over whether the price is per tree or for the whole job. Work is usually priced as a single fee for the whole job or on an hourly basis plus materials. When using the latter, include the wording, "but not to exceed..."

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Beware of people soliciting work door-to-door without identification on their vehicle, uniform, or I.D. card. "Door knockers" are especially common after storms, when there is an opportunity for quick money. Storm damage often creates high-risk situations for both workers and homeowners such as near electrical power lines. In addition, trees damaged by the storm can be further injured if work is not done correctly. Never be rushed by bargains, and never pay in full in advance. Consider hiring a certified arborist. NH Arborist Association

## NH Association of Arborists Certified Arborists in Hillsboro County and surrounding towns:

Emmett Bean Jr.
Bartlett Tree Experts
180 N. Main St Apt. E3
Boscawen, NH 03303

Email: EABeanjr@aol.com

Mr. Lawrence V. Collins Collins Tree Service, Inc. 60 Merrimack Street Hooksett, NH 03106 Phone: 603.485.4761 Fax: 603.928.7410

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Mr. William C. Collins Collins Tree Service, Inc. 60 Merrimack Street Hooksett, NH 03106 Phone: 603.485.4761 Fax: 603.928.7410

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Mr. David R. Crane 66 Ray Street Manchester, NH 03104 Phone: 603.641.5839

Michael T. Donovan 103 Portsmouth Ave. Manchester, NH 03109 mtdnvn@yahoo.com

Mr. Kevin B. Fredette Gate City Tree Service LLC 49 Maple Knoll Drive Hollis N.H.

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Email: info@gatecitytree.com

Mr. Lee Gilman Lee Gilman & Associates, LLC 28 A Old Manchester Rd. Amherst, NH 03031 Phone: 603.249.5042

Email: lee@leegilmanassociates.com

Mr. Frank Grano Bartlett Tree Experts P.O. Box 16359 Hooksett, NH 03106 Phone: 603.627.9400

Email: fgrano@vbartlett.com

Mr. Michael Hennas Arboricultural Services 1 Rhodora Drive Amherst, NH 03031 Phone: 603.801.5366

Email: Pruningbymike@aol.com

Mr. Richard Herfurth Bartlett Tree Experts 24 Maple Lane Lyndeborough, NH 03082

Phone: 603.490.4344 Fax: 603.654.5635

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Mr. Matthew W. Lang Lang's Landscape Service, Inc.

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Email: langslandscape@gmail.com

Shawn MacDonald Collins Tree Service 60 Merrimack St. Hooksett NH 03106

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C. Norris Arboriculture and Landscape

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Email: gjrosato@comcast.net

Chad Rousseau Bedford Tree Service 514 Wallace Rd. Bedford, NH 03110 (603) 472 2150

Email: <u>bedfordtreeman@yahoo.com</u>

Mr. Edward W. Sayce

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Email: <a href="mailto:saycotree@gmail.com">saycotree@gmail.com</a>

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Email: Tateman1225@yahoo.com

Mr. Daniel Tremblay

Broad Oak Tree & Shrub Care, Inc.

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Email: grow@broadoaktree.com

Mr. Thomas W. Wilkins Silver Bear Tree Service 3103 State Route #114 Bradford, NH 03221 Phone: 603.938.6019

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