

Village Green Committee
April 22, 2020 11 AM
Zoom meeting
Final Minutes

Present: Gail Cromwell, Honey Hastings, Connie Kieley, Carol Mamczak, Felicia Sartell, Peggy Cournoyer

Absent: Robin Downes, Matt Cabana

Gail called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM and read special rules under NH RSA 91-A. She confirmed that the meeting is publicly accessible. All voting is to be by roll call.

Roll call attendance was conducted.

Location of trees on Common – Felicia commented on mature size requiring enough space and markers look right. Connie thinks location is correct and asked about grinding the stump. Connie offered to call if needed. Carol suggested that if we can't get it ground before the trees arrive, let's wait until fall. Trees will arrive on Friday.

Motion by Gail, seconded by Connie to accept locations of trees marked by stakes.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Carol, Connie, Peggy, Felicia, Gail

Gail will call select board to approve locations.

Point of order by Honey – regarding alternates, do not participate until the chair designates them to do so. Connie questioned the distinction between regular and alternate. Honey stated municipal association statute that is applicable to VGC, that if someone is absent or disqualified, the chair may designate the alternate may vote.

Gail – does the committee wish to ask Honey to vote

Roll call vote: Ayes – Carol, Peggy, Felicia, Gail; Nay - Connie

Honey will vote.

Crabapple tree proposal - Honey gave presentation on crabapples with the questions from her email, and asked all to refer to chart we produced and shared in Google Drive.

Motion to recommend to the select board that one or more crabapple trees be planted on lower common by Gail, second by Felicia

Discussion to clarify what was being proposed.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Honey, Carol, Connie, Peggy, Felicia, Gail (all in favor)

Gail reviewed the five trees selected by the sub-committee and presented in the Google spreadsheet. Do we want all the same or two different colors? Felicia stated she would like the same or similar. Peggy stated she would like all the same, all white. Connie stated she is willing to consider two different colors. Carol stated she leans toward all same, but won't object to two colors. Honey stated she leans toward all same, but won't object to two colors. She mentioned that the white crabapples by schoolhouse are all white but different varieties, really depends on number of trees. Gail stated that she leans toward two trees, one of each but OK with one color. If we went with white, which one? Honey stated that if we choose the Sargent there is room

for three. It was felt that the area can't fit three of largest trees. Connie stated she is concerned about a tree near the point, salt damage and aesthetically not pleasing. She wants two, does not like the look of the Sargent and prefers Donald Wyman. Carol stated her preference for SugarTyme. Honey had a question about grafts. Gail says they are more vulnerable to cold weather, does not have own root, grafts can go bad. That eliminates the Coralburst.

Motion to purchase on pink Robinson and one white Donald Wyman by Gail, second by Connie.

Discussion about the size of two larger trees in proximity to Liberty Elm that may be 40 x 100 at maturity. Connie suggested that once trees arrive we move them around to consider final placement, particularly on the Firehouse Lane side.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Connie, Gail; Nays – Carol, Peggy, Felicia; Abstain – Honey

Motion fails.

Motion to purchase three SugarTyme trees by Honey, second by Carol

Discussion: Felicia thinks this variety is too small. It was clarified that tree shape is important and that pruning plays a role.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Honey, Carol; Nays – Connie, Peggy, Felicia, Gail

Motion fails.

Motion to purchase two Donald Wyman trees by Connie, second by Peggy

Roll call vote: Ayes – Carol, Honey, Connie, Peggy, Felicia, Gail (all in favor)

Motion passes.

This variety is available at Weston and Bedford Fields. Discussion of where to buy with Weston being the first choice. Their Chelmsford location has several in stock, and they offer a municipal discount of 35%. Carol would like to consider another low growing something in front next year. Connie agrees.

Honey left at 11:45am.

Flower order - Felicia reviewed the King Farm purchase last year. Post Office boxes are raised so we need to consider the streaming plants. Do similar? Color scheme? Gail asked if we are better buying at King or House? We don't know difference on price. Low quantify, higher price at King. She suggested looking at King and if we don't see what we want, go to House. Connie suggested leaving the flower selection up to people who do the shopping. We believe prices are comparable at King and House. Felicia and Carol will be flower sub-committee.

Minutes to approve: 1 0/21/2019, 4/9/2020, 4/17/2020

Motion by Connie to approve all three sets as written, second by Gail.

Roll call vote: ayes – Felicia, Connie, Peggy, Gail, Carol (all in favor with gratitude)

Other business – Gail reported that Alan Fox started on the job, met Kent Perry, and was given tasks for weeding and composting the trees. Alan will help with watering new trees. Compost is coming.

Carol will present crabapple trees proposal to select board next Tuesday.

Location of Firehouse Lane tree will be determined after the trees arrive. They will be ordered if the board approves. John will pick up. We will have a "planting party".

There was discussion of the possibility of bringing the water faucet to Common. Gail reviewed her conversation with Pete Caswell about what needs to be done. Kent is willing to dig and find the valve box on building side of road. A pipe need to be run within the existing one and faucet installed right by the fence. It will benefit those who have to water the trees and those who need it for future activities on the Common. This needs select board approval. Cost is not great. Tim, Kent and Pete have general knowledge of where the valve box is located. Connie suggested that Carol mention this at the tree presentation.

What is the procedure for notifying the VGC regarding the planting? Planting is undecided. Dan Masterson will also be there. New HW employee has horticulture training and knows how to plant. Gail will contact select board members to approve tree locations before next meeting.

New business - Connie reported that the TCPC is interested in communication, placing a permanent sign somewhere. They will send information that TCPC has gathered regarding vendor and funds. Is the VGC interested in following? There is great interest in town in doing something other than sandwich board signs. Peggy does not want any signs in village and suggests they be put at municipal building or 45/101? Carol asked if we are expected to vote or just provide feedback? TCPC is just providing info at this point. Gail does not want us to get involved doing anything since it is so far from our mission. Connie says they just want to keep us informed. When they conduct fundraising can they use our trust fund as a vehicle? Connie will keep the VGC informed.

Next meeting date: TBD when need one regarding flowers and crabapples.

Move to adjourn by Gail, second by Felicia.

Roll call vote: Ayes – Gail, Connie, Felicia, Peggy, Carol (All in favor)

The meeting concluded at 12:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Mamczak

VGC Secretary