

Village Green Committee
Tuesday, September 10, 2019 9:15 AM at the Town Common

Minutes

Attending: Gail Cromwell, Felicia Sartell, Robin Downes, Connie Kieley, Carol Mamczak, two guests who are members of the community, Charlene Eddy and Soren Wills
Absent: Denise Collette, Matt Cabana, Honey Hastings (alt), Peggy Cournoyer, Kathy Fedorka

The meeting was convened at 9:15 AM to discuss VGC recommendations to the Select Board regarding next steps for removing and replacing trees. Recommendations will be part of the 250th fund application.

Trees numbered 2 and 4 have been identified for replacement due to failing health and concerns for safety. Two positions for replacement trees have been marked with stakes and are located away from the fence and road as recommended by both the county forester and the arborist. This will allow new trees to develop healthy roots and crowns. **Motion by Connie and seconded by Gail to recommend three trees, numbers 2, 3 and 4 as candidates for removal with the removal and replacement of numbers 2 and 4 in spring of 2020 and postponing the removal of number 3 until conditions indicate that removal is necessary. Unanimous vote in favor.**

We discussed how soil testing works. Carol shared a sample form to be filled out. Basic testing is \$20. It was recommended that we do four tests in locations around the edge of the common and the results will guide us in soil preparation for new trees and fertilization for existing trees. **Motion by Connie and seconded by Robin to authorize up to \$100. for Carol to mail four soil samples to UNH lab for testing this fall. Unanimous vote in favor.**

We discussed which trees would be next on the list for replacement in the future. These are tree numbers 8 and 9. Replacements would be placed further away from the fence and road to encourage healthy development. This could take place within five years. We discussed the merits and disadvantages of planting replacement trees before removing the older ones. **Motion by Connie and seconded by Gail to advise the Select Board that the VGC recommends removing and replacing trees numbered 8 and 9 as the next step taken in future years. Unanimous vote in favor.**

We discussed the two varieties of Elm trees currently being planted throughout New England that have been bred for resistance to Dutch Elm Disease. The Liberty Elm is only available through the Elm Research Institute. Temple currently has one on the lower common and one at the historical society. Both are doing well. The disadvantage we would have in planting them is in acquiring a large enough tree. The Princeton Elm is the other variety and is more widely available from respected nurseries. We felt that since we plan to locate the trees further from the road that either variety would be fine. **Motion by Robin and seconded by Gail to recommend purchasing two Princeton Elms. Unanimous in favor.**

We had a brief discussion about selecting varieties for the replacement of numbers 8 and 9 and decided to address that when the time comes. There is no recommendation at this time.

We discussed the additional costs of tree work on the common and determined that we should allow up to \$500. for the cost of fertilizer, compost and mulch. The specifics of these will be determined based on the soil test results.

Throughout the meeting community member, Charlene Eddy, sought clarification of VGC plans and recommendations and offered her opinion. After the motions had been voted on, community member Soren Wills arrived seeking clarification and raising objections to the cutting of any trees regardless of state of decline, the lack of information available to the townspeople and the desire to have only Temple trees on the common (as opposed to buying them from a nursery). The VGC felt that he had been misinformed, and he stated that he had not read any of the meeting minutes or attachments from the county forester or certified arborist but was basing his opinions on what he heard. We directed him to the town website to review these documents. Gail thanked him for his input.

Motion by Gail and seconded by Connie to adjourn. Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Mamczak
VGC Secretary