

**Minutes  
Hampden Tree Board  
Subcommittee of the Hampden Town Council Services Committee  
May 27, 2009 @ 6:30pm**

The meeting of the Hampden Tree Board was called to order at 6:40pm on Wednesday May 13, 2009, at the Hampden Municipal Building by Gretchen Heldmann.

Gretchen Heldmann, GIS/IT Specialist  
Kurt Mathies, Recreation Director  
Lance Case  
Chris Packard  
Phil Stack  
Shelby Wright  
Jim Feverston

**1. Introductions**

No introductions needed.

**2. Business**

**A. Arbor Day Ceremony 5/18 Results**

Shelby, Jim, Bob, and the Mayor went to Augusta to receive a plaque and some gift trees including a red maple variant and spruce seedlings. The spruce trees went home with Jim and it was suggested that the seedlings could be given to the volunteers in June at the pool planting. It was decided that the flat of seedlings would be dropped off at the town office and staff would maintain them until the planting. Another option suggested was to speak with Dean about where the seedlings could be planted to enhance businesses in town, such as at the business park. If they are planted at businesses, they would need to be staked and flagged to ensure they do not get mown.

**B. Arbor Day Planting 5/21 Results**

The planting went well, with coverage on the 11pm news which Shelby recorded. Shelby offered to send info about the event to The Weekly newspaper. Chris took some mulch to the tree at the pool and mulched it. Phil confirmed that it is *not* okay to plant a tree with the wire and burlap still attached to the root ball. When Kurt and Gretchen dug the hole for the Magnolia tree at the town office, they pulled up the old wire and burlap from the tree that was there that had died. The group wondered who had planted those trees, and wondered if all the other trees that are not doing well were planted in the same manner.

**C. Council Meeting 5/18 Results, Agreement on Process, Plan for 6/1 Council Mtg**

Jim and Shelby both apologized for what happened at the Council meeting and stated they had let the group down. The group discussed what had happened, and while they agreed that the end result was better for the group, they did not like how it happened. One suggestion was that it could have been presented as agreed and voted upon by the board, but the presenter could have added his/her own last-minute personal thoughts on it for the Council to consider. It was also questioned why it was not brought up sooner. The group agreed that the phone bank would be useful in the future; Gretchen now has everyone's numbers and will call them if there are last minute changes. Jim, Shelby, and Kurt offered to go to the 6/1 Council meeting to speak to them again about the project. The following scenarios of what to ask the Council for were developed, based on if the group is notified on 6/1 or not (grant announcement date is supposed to be 6/1):

- 1) notified & win: ask to waive bid process, ask for permission to begin tag/order trees under town's name w/town staff
  - 2) notified & lost: ask to waive bid process, ask for full funding for project (work up bullet pts as per last couple meeting minutes)
  - 3) not notified: ask to waive bid process, and when notified- IF we win, can we go tag trees ASAP
  - 4) notified & partial funding: ask to waive bid process, ask to fund remaining difference in project
  - 5) not notified & partial funding: wait till 2nd Council meeting
- ALL SCENARIOS: the planting date is now a TENTATIVE planting date

#### **D. Project Canopy Day-of Planning**

It was estimated that there will be about 50 people. The group would like to have a sign-in sheet table & tent, chairs, water, a demonstration planting before turning people out, and each Tree Bd member will be a group supervisor for a designated section of trees. There are 47 trees & shrubs to be planted. The gazebo area will probably be planted by the Garden Club and master gardeners, and the Garden Club has requested a separate planning meeting, which will be probably on 6/11 before 5pm. Members should also bring box cutters, shovels, and wheelbarrows. Gretchen will divide the planting map into 7 sections so each group of trees can then be assigned to a group of people. The group agreed they want to have the volunteers count off by 7's so that everyone is mixed up so they meet new people at this community event. Recreation Dept offered to pay for a BBQ at noon, and Kurt said his staff will take care of that aspect. There will be a portapotty available on site, which people should use instead of the pool facilities inside. Kurt and Gretchen will visit the pool site tomorrow to verify the existing trees on the site.

#### **E. D.Dix Update**

The landowner of the 20ft access strip has granted the town permission to cross the property for timber harvesting. However, the owner consulted with all his neighbors in the area, and they all agree that they do not want regular access back there for parking, busses, etc – apparently there are already problems back there with the public traipsing through their yards.

The group discussed the possibility of changing the harvesting plan based on possibly not being able to have that public access – should they bother to cut additional walking trails? Maybe the harvest should go as planned and the group should work on hosting an informational meeting with the neighbors? Staff reported that the trails do not have to be paved or wide enough for an ambulance, so that may affect how the group changes their plans. This item will be on the next agenda.

**F. Big Ol' Tree Contest Results**

Gretchen reported that no one had submitted anything.

**G. Miscellaneous**

Shelby put together a photo CD and wanted to get reimbursed for the cost. Gretchen will check with the Manager about this, but advised the group not to spend their own money in the future without consulting with the town first.

There is space in the next town newsletter for articles, deadline is June 12<sup>th</sup>. Phil stated he would draft something and email it out to everyone for collaboration and editing.

Jim mentioned that the group could ask the town to play some tree-related DVDs on the cable channel in the next month. Gretchen offered to type up the library of what we currently have and email it out for the group to pick a few. Copyright issues were mentioned, and that could limit what we can broadcast.

**3. Adjournment.**

The next meeting will be 6/10 at 6:30pm. The meeting was adjourned around 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Heldmann  
GIS/IT Specialist