

TREE WARDEN MEETING MAY 17, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Present: Anne Bussler, Osa Flory & John Kuzeja

A joint meeting/hearing with the Planning Board was held to determine the removal of 8 trees located in front of the property address of 7 Petticoat Hill Rd. Eileen Stewart of 7 Petticoat Hill Rd. did a historical presentation of tree limbs which have fallen down several times causing electrical problems with a culminating event of an electrical fire at her home. Ms. Stewart and 4 neighboring property owners were present and each supported the removal of trees. There were 2 supporting letters submitted. Mr. Don Lawton, fire chief of Williamsburg, also supported the removal of the trees. Mr. Lawton worries that the many older trees along the roads near electric wires in Williamsburg is endangering the public. He said: "8 trees came down in a windstorm 3 weeks ago, and luckily, no people were hurt."

Robert Goss, tree arborist, testified that 5 of the trees located at 7 Petticoat Hill Rd. present potential danger to the public: the boxelder and the four trees growing as a clump. The black cherry and maple tree closest to the school parking lot are growing on more level ground and Mr. Goss does not estimate these to pose a danger; he does not believe that the American linden (basswood) is a threat, although removal of the 5 trees around the American linden (basswood) may undermine its stability.

Anne Bussler stated that if there is reason that the stability of a tree becomes undermined with the removal of nearby trees, this tree can be placed on a "watch list".

Anne made a motion: I move that the black cherry not be removed. Motion passed unanimously.

Anne made a motion: I move that the maple tree not be removed. Motion passed unanimously.

Anne made a motion: I move that the Boxelder be removed. Anne and Osa voted yes, John voted no. Motion passed.

Anne made a motion: I move that the basswood not be removed. Anne and John voted yes and Osa voted no. Motion passed.

Anne made a motion: I move that the two black birches be removed. Motion passed unanimously.

Anne made a motion: I move that the two poplar trees be removed. Motion passed unanimously.

The planning board voted unanimously with the tree warden except that the planning board voted to have the basswood removed.

When the tree committee votes to not remove a tree and the planning board votes to remove a tree, the decision is referred to the Select Board. The Select Board will be asked to make a decision on the basswood tree located at 7 Petticoat Hill Rd.

The joint meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Anne called the monthly tree committee meeting to order at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes from March 16, 2010 were reviewed and accepted as written.

Old Business:

Lashco removed the trees as contracted, a bill was received, and submitted to the Town. John said that Richard Heiman of O'Neill Rd. found that the tree butt remaining from one of the trees removed by Lashco was smoking from live embers. Mr. Heiman threw water at it preventing fire damage.

Anne reported that she had e-mailed Holly Hendricks of Kingsley Ave confirming that the tree by her property is a town tree and that it is on our "watch" list of trees.

Anne reported that Nancy Grant, 268-9069, of 19 High St. wondered if National Grid pruned enough of the branches at her property. John and Anne inspected the tree and agreed the tree is in good condition and not in need of further pruning.

Anne tabled letter to be sent to Maple Syrup producers until the next maple syrup season.

John reported that he expects to be able to prune the dead limbs of trees at 11-17 High St. in the next 2 months. He will not be able to remove the dead branches from the properties.

Anne reported that she had sent out requests for bids for tree removal from all the area tree companies listed in the yellow pages. Cotton Tree Service was the only bidder. John moved that the bid be accepted with the exception of removing only 4 of 7 trees located at 7 Petticoat Hill Rd. Motion passed unanimously.

Items 8, 9, and 10 on the agenda were tabled for the next meeting.

New Business:

National Grid requested permission to prune dead limbs and to remove dead trees at the following locations:

South St., pole 27., Old Goshen Rd., Pole 45-46, Depot Rd., Pole 38-39, Depot Rd., Pole 45, Petticoat Hill Rd., Poles 41-42, 60 South St..

These trees were inspected by each tree committee member. Anne made a motion to allow National Grid to do the pruning/removal of dead trees. Motion passed unanimously.

Anne reported that portions of 3 trees came down in the wind storm on May 4 located at 31 Village Hill Rd., 8 Village Hill Rd. and 46 Nash Hill Rd. National Grid was contacted and has agreed to remove remainder of the tree on 8 Village Hill Rd. Anne will contact National Grid regarding the remaining of the tree at 31 Village Hill Rd.

Laura Davenport (413-496-0250) reported the downed tree at 31 Village Hill Rd.

Bruce Seifried (413-268-9990) reported the downed tree located at 8 Village Hill Rd.

Anne will contact the highway department to remove the remainder of these trees lying along the road side. The wood will interfere with the towns ability to plow the road.

After inspecting the fallen tree located at 46 Nash Hill Rd. (Dave West, 268-7645), we decided to do another visit to determine if the tree is a town tree.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on June 15th, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Osa Flory