

## Town of Harvard

### Minutes 14 May 2018: Elm Commission Meeting 2 May at 7:30 PM; location at the Hildreth House

Attendees: JC Ferguson, Mario Cardenas, Matt Shields, Bill Calderwood and Tom Garfield

#### Potential Actions / Discussion:

1. Review elm fungicide injection past and present plan (June injection estimate is \$3,422). Revised estimate less because #11 was removed. Maximum injection cost this year is estimated to be \$2654. JC has set aside \$2500 for injections in June.
2. Discuss logistics of National Grid Tree Grant planting (budget, timing and other details will be discussed).
  - a. When to plant (budget constraints, nursery inventory, volunteer availability...?); March-May 2019
  - b. Notified of National Grid Tree Grant on 25 April 2018. When do grant funds have to be spent? All funds must be spent by June 30, 2019. Need to have Tim Bragan and state sign grant paperwork so start date is set. Once a planting date is chosen, then the preparation plan may change (i.e. DPW could dig parking lot holes in summer and fill with top soil if planting is delayed).
  - c. Need to get edge of stone wall cleared to plant 3 sugar maples at edge of Bromfield parking lot (2 small black locust invasive trees need to be cut down). Bill C. to mark the 2 locust trees, JC will review/approve/ and/or remove them. Once parking lot holes dug by hand (May/June 2018), then Bill and Tim Kilhart will review on site so clearing can get on DPW's to do list. May need old/new stumps ground (?).
  - d. Need stakeholder review (will take time) prior to starting. Need 10-12 hard copies—double sided.
  - e. National Grid Tree Grant accounting requirements? Separate charge numbers have been created and the town contribution of \$2000 must be spent first.
  - f. Review multi-year maintenance requirements of trees to be planted. Prune, water and mulch for 3 years and fertilize on 3<sup>rd</sup> year.
3. Tom Garfield is good to go for tree watering this season—Bill will order more bags when grant planting date is determined. Discuss watering list for 2018—15 trees specified.
4. Need to decide on location and cultivar of first grade tree planting for 2018. Bill has not yet ordered gift trees as a date has not yet been established. Continue with south of Bromfield driveway as last year to stay away from HES new building project. A white oak will be planted if available (back up is a red oak). Gift trees ordered and planting date set for 23 May at 9AM (need to prep hole and tree day before).
5. Impact of HES school project for next few years (Tree Warden / Elm Com. review of existing tree protection / move plan and school budget for re-planting afterwards). Too early to have any answers or discussion.
6. Newsletter for Harvard Tree Fund to be sent out by end of May or early June.
7. Discuss funding needs vs budget increase for June 2018 –June 2019 from Forestry Budget (include priority Elm tree pruning, injections, lime, potentially above grant matching funds....)
  - a. Through June 2018: Forestry budget items are \$2500 injections; Harvard Tree Fund will pay for 1st grade planting and gift trees (~\$600), newsletter printing and postage, PO Box yearly fee.
  - b. Matt Shields to obtain 2 soil tests for old elms in front of library (location 1) and to southeast of UU church on Common (location 2). This will prescribe how much lime to apply around each old tree in the area.
  - c. For next year's forestry budget (July 2018 thru June 2019), potential items are \$2000 for National Grid Tree Grant (deferred from prior year), \$4130 injections, \$4000 March pruning of old elms (deferred/overdue sanitation), removal of S4 if required (~\$500), stump grinding (~\$200), lime (~\$200) and first grade gift trees (~\$300).
8. Other items that attendees would like to discuss. No other items.