

VOP Tree Board
Minutes
May 9, 2018

Present: Dan Zerbe, Lori Schofield, Robin Redding, Levi Hauser, Eleanor Jacobs

Chairman Zerbe called the meeting to order at 7:04.

The group reviewed the village's Arbor Day event, held Saturday, April 28, 2018. The positives: participation from community members and groups such as the Garden Club and two 4-H members. At least 22 people helped to plant 5 trees. (DPW had planted ~ 4 trees prior to Arbor Day planting.) The event received impressive press coverage with the Perry Herald, Batavia Daily News, Wyoming County news and Country Courier representatives present.

The board chose April 27, 2019, as next year's Arbor Day celebration. It will reach out to groups such as 4-H, Scouts and Garden Club prior to the event and announce it in The Shopper, on Facebook and the Village website, and through emails Dan collected from 2018 attendees. Seven trees will be planted at a yet-to-be-determined location. Over the winter, the Tree Board will develop the 2019 tree planting plan so plantings can occur in April.

The board reviewed the poster contest. Robin said a resident suggested the board hold a tree-themed poem contest with school children and put the poems into a book. The group supports this idea and will develop a theme for it. Dan said the board could offer the state Arbor Day poster contest to students who would prefer art projects.

The board discussed ways to improve communication with DPW. Other than the Google doc spreadsheet that Dan developed to record and track all details about trees and contact with Andrew, the board is at a loss.

Dan will order the trees for the school planting: a white oak, a Chinese dogwood and a rose (or is that red) bud. He will also order the trees approved for the Letchworth Family Medicine location.

Letters were mailed to Cherry St. residents in preparation for a fall planting of flowering cherry trees on that street. The expectation is to plant 11 trees in the fall. Only one resident requested that a tree not be planted. When initiating either a theme planting, such as Cherry St., or a designated- street planting, Dan drafts letters that the village office staff mails to residents. If a resident doesn't want a tree, the person must notify the office by returning the form, stopping in or calling.

On Friday, May 11, Lori, Eleanor and Dan will flag locations where remaining trees are to be planted this spring.

With Steve's decision to leave the board, Robin and Lori suggested possible new members: Ralph Field, who Robin will contact, and Pat Schofield, who Lori will talk to.

The group discussed whether to apply for the DEC Urban Forestry Grant again. Eleanor is to follow up with Adam Tableski at Wendel to learn more about how the village will benefit from the grant.

Lori reviewed her assigned streets: Parker Lane and Lake Street. She identified a need for trees at 111, 115, 109 Lake St. and possibly at the Arco Station. There was discussion of the tree at the corner of Lake and S. Federal. Is it 35 feet from the intersection? Parker Lane plantings will be part of a Rotary District Grant that Perry Rotary received. Once Rotary knows the amount of money it will receive, it will determine the number of trees. It's expected Rotary will plant those trees.

Robin presented planting needs on Washington Blvd. She suggested 3 trees on Carr's property and three small trees between the driveways at the car wash which is owned by Hunt Enterprises. She spoke to a person at Creative Foods about plantings at its facility on the corner of Washington Blvd. and S. Federal.

Next meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018. 7 PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Jacobs