

Village of Perry
Tree Board
Minutes
September 4, 2019

15 people attended the public meeting to hear details of the inventory report, presented by Dan Zerbe and Art Traver, Wendel's arborist.

Key findings are presented on page 2-1 of the inventory report. Of concern are these findings: 61% of the village trees are in the genus Acer (maples), 66% of trees were considered to be in good condition and 68% of the street tree inventory locations have trees. Art raised the question of why so many of the trees planted 5 - 7 years ago are dead or dying.

The Management Plan will include these considerations:

1. Improve efficiency in locating planting sites, ordering & planting.
2. Conserve existing trees
3. Increase diversity and canopy cover. Plant with a purpose, promote planting by private entities and provide incentives.
4. Develop a long-term strategy to fund the community forest.
5. Engage the broader community (school, businesses, general public)

Tree Board Meeting

Present: Dan Zerbe, Robin Redding, James Reynolds, Lori Schofield, Ralph Field, Felisa McKay, Eric Kelly, Rose McEwen, Eleanor Jacobs

New member Rose McEwen was welcomed.

Fall planting: Discussion of planting in front of the Bank of Castile. Concluded to proceed with planting. Flag locations approximately 3 weeks prior to planting.

Eric suggested that the letter sent to residents needs to more clearly state what action is required if a resident doesn't want a tree. Eleanor added that a second letter should not be sent to residents who have already responded that they don't want a tree.

Art spoke of the two grants — maintenance and planting — the village might apply for. They are 75% reimbursement grants. (In a Sept. 13 email Art said the village would get the "best bang for the buck" from the maintenance grant. "Funding could be used for tree removals and pruning. The inventory identified

21 trees for removal with 11 of these being larger and overhead power lines involved.”

Eleanor is to contact Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Don Gasiewicz to see if he will conduct a workshop of pruning and training trees.

Art encourage board members to look at tree stewardship programs in Onondaga, Erie and Rensselaer counties. These involve Cooperative Extension.

The board also needs to determine if there is a way to do school and/or community outreach that is less labor intensive than previous programs.

Next meeting: Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2019. 7 p.m. Village Hall.