

Village of Perry Tree Advisory Board
Minutes – April 5, 2016

Present: Felisa McKay, Robin Redding, Lori Schofield, Steve Townes, Dan Zerbe, Eleanor Jacobs and John Eisenhard

Eleanor called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

Forester John Eisenhard of LeRoy spoke to the group. He noted that Perry's trees have the classic conditions of over-maturity and key-hole pruning by the utility. John suggested we can do our own tree evaluation/inventory. For example, begin by selecting specific streets and rate the trees as 1) An imminent danger, 2) A future concern, 3) Of no concern. Consider safety first (most hazardous, then aesthetics).

He suggested hiring a certified arborist to confirm the TAB's determinations about trees. If we slowly remove poorly pruned trees, replace them with something appropriate for specific locations. Ask these questions: "What should we do in place of a particular tree? What could take its place?"

Mapping is an overreaction, he said.

Group discussed the Clean Sweep/Arbor Day Grant planting. We will meet at the Village Park's North Pavilion at 9:30. Bring shovels, gloves, whatever else you need. Eleanor will check with Renee on the size of the trees and the availability of fertilizer tablets, peat moss (if the village doesn't supply them, the TAB will buy them and use grant funds), mulch and water. Eleanor will invite the mayor to attend for a photo op and also see if Rotary members will help with planting.

The group reviewed the tree law. Dan will make final changes; Eleanor will have it forwarded to the village attorney for assessment.

Lori reported on Cornell Cooperative Extension and Perry Elementary's involvement in an Arbor Day event. It's too late this year, but in preparation for next year, Lori will prepare a list of possible Arbor Day events the TAB can do to engage the school and a timeline for developing an Arbor Day celebration to involve the school (and hopefully the community).

Robin reported that GCC doesn't have a forestry-related program. The group has put on hold the development of standards, policy, guidelines and the master plan.

Felisa checked at SUNY Geneseo. There may be some assistance, but the TAB must determine what it wants and needs.

Dan suggested at some point we might do a tree walk, locate houses that don't have trees in front of them and ask owners if they want a tree.

Felisa will continue to tabulate survey hard copies; Robin will summarize the three questions on the survey that have written responses.

Next meeting: Saturday, April 30, 2016, 9 AM, tree evaluation walk. Meet at Perry Market Place.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Jacobs