

VOP Tree Advisory Board
Minutes
Dec. 28, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7 PM. Present: Felisa McKay, Lori Schofield, Robin Redding, Dan Zerbe, Village Trustee Anita Billings, & Eleanor Jacobs. Absent: Steve Townes.

The committee reviewed the vision statement, made revisions and on a motion by Dan, seconded by Robin, approved the vision statement.

Reports on other municipalities' tree policy/practices:

- Mt. Morris: Lori reported that Mt. Morris doesn't have a policy. DOT planted the streetscape trees coming into the village from the north, and the village cares for them. The village doesn't allow the planting of willow trees. (That is its sole policy.)
- Geneseo: Felisa learned that Geneseo subcontracts the removal of trees. For every tree removed, one is replanted. The village sends a letter to residents when a tree is scheduled to be planted, giving homeowners the opportunity to pick from six trees available for planting.

Felisa learned that Dansville plants a tree on a resident's property if that person dies. (Or some such arrangement.)

- Warsaw: Robin reported that Warsaw has no tree advisory committee or policy per se. In the last 5 years it hasn't replaced any trees for ones removed due to budget and power line interference. The village has a tree lot where replacements have been grown, but the trees have become too large to replant.

Dan prepared text for a brochure on the VOP's tree policy. (Beautifully written) The group decided to prepare a fact sheet, after Eleanor consults with Ed, on the VOP's current approach to tree removal and replanting. It will encourage residents to have a tree replanted for everyone removed. The remainder of Dan's text (tree ordinance) can be part of the tree advisory board's policy recommendation.

Eleanor will meet with Ed to get more information on:

- Where DPW sources trees for replanting
- Clarification of the current removal/replanting policy
- Height of utility lines
- Tree varieties

Felisa asked about contacting Letchworth Park about the availability of seedlings. Robin will talk with Tom Kwiecien about that.

Robin reported on the Urforean Manager program: It's a Cloud-based, subscription program that categorizes and inventories a community's trees for better management. One of the developers is the forester who did Byron's tree inventory. (See the company's website.)

The group reviewed and revised the draft survey. A final draft will be emailed for approval and then presented to the village board at its Jan. 4, 2016, meeting. (Update: Daryl McLaughlin suggested a Google survey tool that may work well for us to offer an on-line option for the survey.)

Next Meeting: Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016, 7 PM. Village Hall.