

PALMER ARBORETUM MINUTES
March 24, 2019

1. Call to order at 6:00 pm
2. Attendance: Jean Rocheleau, Philippa Paquette, Judith Gries, Bill Brower, Nancy Adams, Andy Krofina, Linda Kaplan
Absent excused: Chad Hart
Absent unexcused: Danielle Payne
Guest: Tony Reed
3. Motion to include Tony Reed representing the Historical Society on the agenda (Paquette/Rocheleau). all in favor.

Tony had 2 concerns; a) The new sign for the Historical Society and for the Palmer Arboretum. The committee decided to have the old sign cut in half and hang the Arboretum half under the new Historical Society sign. b) The Historical Society has a contract with Hilltop to remove the asphalt from the parking area up to the flagpole and replace it with compressed gravel. This is apparently a stable surface that will absorb water and reduce the runoff damage to the Arboretum. The estimated cost is \$4,500 and Tony asked if the Arboretum Committee would make a donation towards this expense. The committee discussed this and expressed concern that with the anticipated \$2,100 budget cut by the Town it would seriously limit the ability to meet the needs of the Arboretum. The funds allotted by the town are expected to be spent directly on the Arboretum. Bill suggested approaching the Board of Finance to ask for some of the contingency fund to help the Historical Society repair the parking area. He volunteered to go to the meeting with Tony to request this assistance.

4. Approval of February minutes: Motion Krofina/Rocheleau All in favor. Brower abstained.

5. Treasurer's Report: Regular budget:\$2,600.47 Friends of the Arboretum \$3,529.39. \$100 was recently donated. The Board of Finance has planned to cut \$2,100 from the 2019 budget, giving the Arboretum only \$5,000. This means we will need to focus on volunteers for providing much of the work needed in the Arboretum.

6. New Business: Planning the work schedule for the Arboretum: Bartlett Tree Service will do periodic inspections of the copper beech and will treat it twice a year (April13-May12 and June/July). The treatment will include soil analyses, fertilization and chemical treatments for diseases. Estimated cost is \$638. The copper beech is a very significant tree in the Arboretum and the committee agreed to this treatment and cost. Oil spray for Gypsy moth had been recommended last year and Jean will see if this can be included in the contract.

The Yews need to be fertilized and all debris needs to be raked away from under them.

Andy, Jean and Nancy will take out the maple that is dying but the roots will need to be dug out. The pink dogwood that the Garden Club is donating in honor of Mary Seney should thrive in that setting.

Jean will contact Johnathon Roy for an estimate for felling and cutting up the damaged trees by the bridge. Student volunteers can carry the logs up to the parking lot for removal.

WA can send volunteers on May10 and Philippa, Judith, Bill and Nancy can work that day.

The committee agreed to designate Saturday morning 9:00-11:30 as a regular weekly work time at the Arboretum. Linda will inform the Garden Club and solicit volunteers for any Saturday they can come except for Easter Saturday and Memorial Day weekend. The following members

agreed to show up: April 6: Philippa, Jean, Linda, Judith

April 13: Andy, Philippa, Judith April 27: Andy, Nancy May 4: Jean, Andy

May 10: Philippa, , Nancy, Judith, Bill Andy (maybe) May 18: Jean, Philippa, Andy, Nancy

Jean bought journals for all members to record their volunteer hours and get signatures and times of other volunteers who work with them.

Jean will check with Mitch on last year's bill of \$150 for spreading and supplying fertilizer and lime for the grass. The committee agreed that this should be repeated this year by Mitch.

Andy, Jean and Nancy went to the Ellis Tech Open House and were immensely impressed by the facility, staff and students. The architecture department is excited about designing the bridge for free and the carpentry students will build it for a donation to the department.

Ben Young is going to give a quote for the materials needed for the bridge. The Rotary Club is still interested in funding this project. This may not happen until next year and in the meantime the bridge needs to be either temporarily repaired. Matt has said he will try to fix it up as a temporary intervention.

Larry, a member of the Garden Club would like to have a bush planted in memory of his wife. Andy will discuss possible rhododendron colors with him. There will be no plaque beside the bush but a roll of honor will be maintained in the information box to record all those who have been honored by a tree or bush.

Philippa will contact the Woodstock Business Association to have the Arboretum included in their list of Special Interests.

List of spring chores:

1. Fertilize daffodils and day lilies with 10:10:10 (bag in shed)
2. Weed wack and dig up skunk cabbage
3. Spread cardboard, newspapers and mulch
4. Edge beds
5. Pick up sticks
6. Acid fertilizer on Rhododendrons and azaleas
7. Edge and mulch area under oak to protect roots from mowing damage
8. Chop down dying red maple and dig up roots.
9. Reseed damaged areas with grass seed and rake gently.
- 10: Fertilize yews

Motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm (Krofina/Adams) All in favor

Next meeting April 11 at 6:00 pm