

Palmer Arboretum Minutes
December 13, 2018

1. Call to order: Meeting called to order at 7:05
2. Attendance: Jean Rocheleau, Andy Krofina, Nancy Adams, Bill Brower, Philippa Paquette
3. Guest: Caroline Sloat ; Absent unexcused: Linda Kaplan, Chad Hart, Danielle Payne, Marilyn Pomeroy, Judith Gries
4. Approval of November Minutes: Motion, Rocheleau/Brower, all in favor, Krofina abstained
5. Treasurer's Report: \$3,500.47 in the account. Mitch is owed \$630 for 14 hours of leaf blowing. Balance will be \$2,870.47. Friends account holds \$3,429.39. Jean has asked Mitch to be very specific on his invoices as to what tasks and areas he has completed so that appropriate tasks are assigned to volunteer groups.
6. Budget for 2019: Bill and Jean met to discuss the 2019 Budget. Karen will notify us next week when the budget is due and what should be included.
7. Old Business: Update on leaves: The bad weather prevented the volunteers from coming to the Arboretum. The papers and cardboard can remain in the Historical Society Building and Jean has covered the mulch with 2 tarps. This work will be scheduled in the spring. Jean will write a letter of thanks to Jeff Dursi for the generous donations of materials by Hull Lumber after Bill finds out the value of the donation so she can be specific in the letter. The three trees that need to come down should come down this winter when the ground is frozen. Nancy will find out who submitted bids for the tree removal at Roseland Park. Jean will research other possible tree removers. Bill recalled that in the past several arborists had worked together and volunteered their time on a Saturday to remove trees at the Arboretum. This year they may have too much work on their hands to be able to do this. Bill suggested we run an ad. in the Shoppers Guide requesting help. Philippa will approach Jonathon Roy to ask if he would be available.
Eagle Scout Project: No response from the Scouts. Bill has asked Ben to re-grade and regravell the path that was washed out and to repair the patio. it may require additional supports to the patio such as angle irons. Jean has written a letter of thanks to Keith Grossman for the beautiful Information Box.
New trees: Paul planted the Heptacodium and the Coral Bark Maple. Jean has the plaque for Dennis Panu's tree. Bill planted the Rotary trees: One elm; 2 chestnuts on the hillside above the bridge; 2 chinkapin oaks, one at the bottom of the Arboretum and the other near MaryLou's border. These trees are very small.
8. New Business: Bob Ricard's Recommendations: The recommendations were reviewed by the committee and the following were selected for implementation. Mowing is damaging the roots of the White Oak. The area around the tree should be mulched to kill the grass. It then should be weeded and pachysandra can be moved from the hillside and planted around the White Oak. The crab apples need a hard pruning and the leaning cherry could be pruned rather than braced.
Caroline Sloat shared the article she has written about the Palmer Arboretum for the Putnam Traveller. She met with Betty Poulin for some historical background and it is an excellent article.
Philippa presented the idea that we should join forces with other committees responsible for open space upkeep in Woodstock. Bob Ricard had recommended we extend our vision to the Woodstock Green and Sarah Bentley is interested in Roseland Park Trustees having a dialogue with Palmer Arboretum Committee about shared concerns. Caroline mentioned that an intern at the Chamberlin Mill is also interested in identifying trees and marking trails around the Mill. Woodstock also owns the Town beach and shares the Park at Crystal Pond with Eastford. There could be a real benefit in dialogue, shared publicity, fund raising and shared resources and services.
9. Any other business: Spring Activities: Repair the rain garden by digging it out
Prune crab apples and leaning cherry; Mulch the wetlands; Mulch around White Oak;
Remove three dead and damaged trees.; long bridge is deteriorating and Matt will try to

make temporary repairs. A grant might cover the expense of replacing it. Bill had two grant application packages that he shared. It is important to keep a record of the volunteer hours that we and student volunteers spend at the Arboretum in order to support a grant application. The students need to sign their time sheet and we need to report our hours at each meeting to keep a central record.

Nancy stated that she would like the committee to have a sense of direction; a five year and ten year plan for the Arboretum. Jean agreed that we are maintaining and not prioritizing and planning. Bill had a box of plans and maps of the Arboretum that had been compiled in the past. He feels it is very important to have a calendar of activities to keep ahead of the weeds. He would also like to see the shrubs identified in the same way that the trees have been identified. This would be a good task for an intern from the Garden Planning Program that Bob Ricard had suggested. The committee agreed that they should hold a retreat in February to develop a direction and a long term plan.

There will be no meeting in January and the February 14 regular meeting will be rescheduled.

10. Motion to adjourn: 8:20 Paquette/Krofina Ail in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Philippa Paquette