

## Minutes of Palmer Arboretum Committee

March 11, 2021

Attendance:

Present: Paquette, Krofina, White : Absent excused Sziedzik : Absent unexcused: Hart  
Minutes of Meeting February 11, 2021: All in favor

Treasurer's report: No change: Remaining Balance: \$4,285.05 Friends Fund: \$ 2,554.43

Maintenance Contracts: No word from Julian about their contract for tree maintenance that Philippa signed. She will call him.

Mitch submitted his mowing contract which is the same as last year with an unpriced item for lawn fertilization. The committee agreed to the mowing charge for biweekly mowing but requested more information about the lawn fertilization charges. Philippa will contact Mitch for the cost of lawn fertilization.

Chad did not contact Philippa about any conversation with Bill Rathbone or with other arborists. Philippa will contact him to find out if he has made contacts and if not she will talk with Bill Rathbone and Stately Tree Services to get an estimate for the ash trees.

Philippa talked with Jay by phone and listed our concerns with planning for the next 5 years, protecting and planting trees in the arboretum and working with the community in supporting the natural spaces and encouraging their use by all members of the community. He said we could have a meeting but none has been scheduled yet so Philippa will call Brenda and ask her to set one up as soon as possible. Agenda will include:

1. How can the Palmer Arboretum best work with the town and other community institutions?
2. Does Jay understand our serious concerns with the possibility of sudden storm damage that will involve major expenses to deal with damaged trees? We have huge old trees and some that are doomed by pests so will need to remove and replace.
3. Our funds should go to the trees and not to mowing. Can't the town help with that?
4. We are trying to maximise our independence through volunteers (Garden Club, Lions Club, The Woodstock Academy and Pomfret School, grants and fund raising ).
5. We are encouraging community access. Celebrate Spring. Can the Town help with copying, printing etc.?
6. How to use the Town web site and establish our own.

Celebrate Spring: Rain date will be the following Sunday. We will make bird feeders not nesting boxes. Have primula plants for kids to plant in swamp area( Philippa will ask Dr. Dannenhower for donations of the primulas)

How can we make a banner and flyers? We will ask Sara to check with WA, Jessie will check with Rectory School. we will ask Jay at meeting.

A muralist has moved into the area. Andy will check out her web site and share the information. She has offered to make a community mural for the Arboretum. Jessie suggested we should solicit sculptures for a temporary sculpture exhibit in the Arboretum. Great idea! We should advertise in Woodstock Proud.

Marc Moseley from the Woodstock Lions Club has volunteered their members to help us out at a work day as part of their community service commitment. Yeah!

Nancy Adams submitted a report to the Ct. Master Gardener Association on the progress of the work at the Arboretum funded by their grant to us of \$320. Submitting this report entitles us to reapply for a grant this year.

The committee agreed to schedule a special meeting with Sara and Chad to firm up the details for the Celebrate Spring as it is too long to wait until our next meeting to confirm publicity etc.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

<https://youtu.be/Fv06MPD-2t0>