

Palmer Arboretum Committee
Minutes of the May 16, 2023 Meeting

Present on Zoom

Philippa, Charlotte, John, Sara, Denise

April minutes

Approved

Treasurer's report

Charlotte sent out prior to meeting. Expenses for month were mowing and reimbursement to Philippa. Two new trees were covered by the gift certificate. Still have almost \$3,000. Will ask Julian about work to be done before the end of June.

Meeting with Town

Wednesday, May 17th at 3 p.m. with Jay Swan and Karen Fitzpatrick. Denise and Sara will attend with Philippa. Things to discuss include: budget, hiring students (2 students, 1 ½ hours, twice a week. Pay \$15/hour which is minimum wage) and trees Julian said need to be removed.

Art in the Arboretum

A lovely day, but not a tremendous response.

Five adult artists. Only one turned in two pieces of work.

One High School student made two pieces.

Three Middle School students came. Only one has turned in artwork.

Philippa has contacted Barbara Lussier about bringing over the three pieces for her comments.

Committee agreed to give students (one High School and one Middle School) \$100 each.

Discussion ensued about thoughts for next year. General consensus was to do something, but in a different form. Discussed the possibilities of including poets, writers. Also discussed the idea of having an artist come to lead a class of some kind.

Sara mentioned that we need to do a better job at promoting.

Also discussed possibility of holding a book discussion ("The Overstory" by Richard Powers) in the Arboretum.

Work Days

Service day with Pomfret Academy students went very well.

Woodstock Academy work day coming up on Thursday, May 18th. Sara shared will happen in two waves starting at 2:30 p.m. Weeding is a priority. Hostas under Yew tree could also be moved. Daffodils need to be dead headed.

John offered to bring his chain saw to help remove some dead branches.

Water Group Meeting

Monday, May 22nd at 4 p.m. at Arboretum with Julian Reese, Jean Pillo (who designed rain garden), Bill Brower, Philippa, Sara, Denise. Question is if trees are dying because of lack of water or due to disease?

Summer Needs

Two new trees will need watering

Plants in planters will need to be changed and watered

Generally keeping an eye on things

May also need supervision of students if we are able to hire them.

Denise offered to send out a weekly sign up once it's determined if we'll hire students and when they might be there.

Sara mentioned need to plant more things that like wet. John mentioned the possibility of a willow. Agreed to continue discussion after Water Meeting.

Federated Garden Clubs of CT

John mentioned that there is a board meeting tomorrow and our application will be voted on at this meeting.

Next meeting on June 20th at 3:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Denise Esslinger

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oci-fZhkvkw>