

Palmer Arboretum Committee
Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2024 @7:00 pm

This meeting was held via Zoom. The recording can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/y5bmaZMP6SI>

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Attendance: Philippa Paquette, John Davis, Sandra Swale, Tom Swale

Absent excused: Sara Dziedzic, Denise Esslinger

Minutes of March meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: No change from last month. Balance : Budget Account \$222.23

Friends Account \$8,526.60

Current Work Projects:

Phil (Denise's husband) sawed up the large limb that had fallen on the shade garden and the branches are piled on the path. Thank you Phil!

April 25: 9:00-3:00 Pomfret School Day of Service : John will supervise and Tom will join him during his lunch break. Denise has offered to bake cookies for a snack.

John and Philippa will tour the Arboretum at 10:30 tomorrow to identify the necessary tasks for the students. Sandra may join them.

Philippa has bought three new tarps. for moving the woodshavings and collecting branches.

May 22: Students from The Woodstock Academy will come 2:30-4:00. Sara will supervise and Philippa can join them.

Upcoming LGV Tours : May 8 and 16 @ 10:00 am. Philippa and Sandra will lead them. May 25 @ 10:00 am Philippa will lead.

Philippa has talked with Bill Reid from LGV about holding youth programs at the Arboretum. Their program is full for the spring but he was enthusiastic about the idea of a joint program in the Fall. He has found that a Sunday afternoon is the best time to attract family attendance.

Other Business:

The Committee is able to switch the meeting from the third Wednesday of the month to the fourth Wednesday of the month . Thank you committee. The possibility of meeting earlier, at 6:00 rather than 7:00 will be explored with Sara when she returns . It would be more convenient for Crystal who has to open the ZOOM meeting for us. Thank you Crystal for accomodating us , particularly at this very stressful time.

Philippa spoke to the Chairman of the Finance Committee at the Town meeting about the need for the \$4000 rather than \$3000 in next year's budget. She explained that the Arboretum is visited most during the summer when the volunteer students are not in school and we need to hire workers to maintain the quality of the park. He understood and said we should use up our current budget account and then appeal to the Board of Finance for additional moneys to pay for the mowing and hire help.

We need more information about the youth workers through the EConn program as their hours appear too long for them to still be effective workers and for us to be available to supervise them. Denise has been in contact with the supervisor and we hope something can be arranged. The Town Hall will need to advertise the positions and applicants , including Reed will need to apply, as they did last year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45

