

Minutes of Palmer Arboretum Meeting

September 9,2021

Present: Philippa Paquette, Jessy White, Sara Dziedzic

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm
2. No citizen participation
3. Reviewed notes from last meeting. Andy Krofina has expressed her intention to resign from the Committee and everyone regrets this and feels it will be a huge loss. She was a very active and important member of the Committee and a strong worker in the Arboretum. She will be missed.
4. Treasurer's Report: Jessy presented the report . The Town cut our budget to \$6,000 and at this time there is \$5,040 remaining in the regular fund and \$3,077.48 in the Friends Fund. Sprucedale Nursery still has not presented the bill for the \$1,000 gift certificate and they have also not yet planted the coral bark maple that has been paid for.
5. Our neighbor, who sustained the damage to fence and garden from the poplar limb, has chosen to pay for the repairs herself and not involve the town's insurance company in any way. Philippa took her a gift basket as a thank you and will write an official letter of thanks.
6. The First Selectman and John Navarro are aware of the fallen oak tree but will be unable to attend to it for a few weeks because of prior commitments to road maintainance. Philippa has placed a yellow warning tape around the area and it should not create a danger to visitors to the Arboretum. She took photographs of the damage and the fallen tree and sent them to Crystal Adams at the Town Hall. Some of the branches may have fallen on the Madson's property and Philippa will check with Crystal if they should be informed of the Town's plan and delay in clearance. Andy had mentioned that somebody might be interested in buying the wood and Sara is aware of a place in Montville that has bought trees from her family and will contact them.
7. The dates for the LGV walks in their calendar are not the same as those originally planned. They are now scheduled for September 19,22; October 6 and 16. Philippa can lead the first three and Sara and Jessy will join her for October 16. Philippa will pick up the supplies from the LGV office next week.
8. Work dates: September 18: 9:30-11.00 (Philippa,Sara and any volunteers)
October 3: 10.00-12.00O (Philippa, Sara, Jessy and any volunteers)
October 28: 2:30 (Sara, National Honor Society from WA. Philippa)
October 29: 10.00-10:45 (Sara, Advisory groups WA)

We need to reach out to other organizations for volunteers.

Sara will reach out to Ann Richards at Pomfret School, Boy Scouts , TEEG.

Philippa will reach out to Lions Club. She has posted a plea for new committee members and volunteers on Woodstock Proud.

Jessy will reach out to Rectory School.

Other resources might include Master Gardener students at UConn., Boy Scouts who need Eagle Project or volunteer hours. Garden Club Members.

9. The donation letter should include an emphasis on the need to preserve and protect our historical trees in the Arboretum. The Town Hall apparently still has no way to accept electronic donations but this should be explored further with the First Selectman. The Town website needs to be updated and should include a way to donate electronically.

10. Sara spoke about the Arboretum at the Faculty meeting at WA and stressed the opportunities it offers for onsite enrichment of curricula. The teachers in the Stride program are interested in using the Design Center to create objects such as nesting boxes and bat houses . Numbered signs for the self guided trail would be welcome. Susan Lovegreen is interested in exploring the possibility of a water quality testing program.

Two future goals: 1. Meet with First Selectman to establish an electronic fund raising page through Pay Pal or similar.

2. Develop a tree plan to identify timeline for removal of trees.