

Minutes of Palmer Arboretum Committee Meeting  
<https://youtu.be/U8JEDIJ7W1M>

January 13, 2021

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm
2. Present: Philippa Paquette, Andy Krofina, Jessie White, Sara Dziedzik. Visitor: Diane Miller
3. Absent excused: Chad Hart
4. Treasurer's Report: Regular Budget Balance: \$4,285.05  
Friends Account : \$2,862.48
5. The Committee discussed the contract for tree care developed by Julian Reese from Bartlett Tree Experts. He proposed a plan of treatment for 2020-2021 that would address issues with the Copper Beech, Hemlock, Paper Birch and Grove of False Cypress and would cost \$1,400. He also recommended steel supports for the Beech and the Cypress Grove for an additional \$1,350. Future removal of 3 declining ash trees would cost \$5,000. This is the first bid we have received and while recognizing that Julian has been very helpful in the past and knows and cares for the Arboretum it behooves the committee to be budget conscious and seek other bids and treatment plans. Chad has agreed to take responsibility for obtaining these bids and they will be expected at the meeting in February. Philippa will let him know the time line.
6. Jessie presented the previous budget and the next one is due next week! The Committee agreed that the focus must be on the trees and the care of those that need maintenance. The budget will include this item as well as the annual mowing expenses, trees for the swamp area and expense of spring and fall clean up. The committee will send out a letter in the spring soliciting donations for specific projects and inviting visitors to an Open Arboretum walk in May. Philippa will begin to write the appeal letter. She will also meet with John Navarro and discuss possible Town Crew involvement with the removal of the dead tree in the north east corner, the ash trees and the final treatment of the edges of the driveway that are eroding with the heavy rains.  
Sara suggested that we meet with Jay Swan and discuss our budgetary needs and look for best solutions.
7. Philippa shared the letter from LGV that extends our partnership with them at no cost until 12/31/2023 and inclusion of the Palmer Arboretum in Explore.
8. Sara will gather some WA students for one or more work days in April. She questioned the existence of a 5 or 10 year plan for the Arboretum. Andy reported that there used to be a list of needed repairs but that list has been completed, Philippa reported that the goals for the Arboretum included planting trees that would thrive in the changing climate, preserving the historic trees and expanding the community awareness of the Arboretum. Sara offered to use social media to spread the good word! Andy will contact Linda to get information about our website.
9. Other business: Andy will go to Sprucedale nursery and pursue the replacement of the coral bark maple.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.