

## Palmer Arboretum Minutes

February 11, 2021

Present: Philippa Paquette, Andy Krofina, Jessie White, Sarah Dziedzic

Absent Excused: Chad Hart

3. Treasurer's Report: No change from last month: Balance \$4,285.05

Friends Account \$2,862.48

Jessie will contact Town Hall to change donation information on the web site.

4. Committee agreed to contract with Julian Reese from Bartlett Tree Experts for the treatments for the trees in the Arboretum as outlined in his contract for the sum of \$1,400. He is both knowledgeable and capable and has a love for the Arboretum. The additional work of cabling for the Beech Tree and the Cyprus Grove will be discussed by Chad with Bill Rathbone who is the Town Arborist and may be able to complete the work for less than the \$1,350 mentioned by Julian. The Ash trees will eventually need to be removed but their removal can be delayed.

5. Philippa met with John Navarro at the Arboretum and showed him the erosion at the north and south sides of the drive and parking lot and the three eroded drainage channels in the Arboretum. After the snow melts he will deliver topsoil to refill these areas and we will need to spread it and seed it. He noted the fallen tree in the north east corner and will check with Jay Swan if the Town Crew can remove it. He will also ask Jay about mowing the grass as this is a town park. He mentioned the three tree companies that he uses for Tree work as the Town does not have tree climbers and fellers on the crew. He was concerned about the potential damage that would be created to the Arboretum if the ash trees were removed by cranes and large equipment. He suggested that using climbers to bring them down and small trucks to remove the wood would be less damaging. Chad commented on this concern by saying that there are mats that can be used to protect the grass, the tree company is responsible for restoring any damaged lawn to its original state and if the trees are dead, climbers should not go up. John did talk to Jay Swan and told Philippa that Jay had said the budget was expected to pay for mowing, shredding and tree work. The committee discussed the impossibility of stretching the budget dollars to cover all the anticipated costs and emergency costs that result from storm and wind damage. They will request a meeting with Jay in the near future to present their concerns and plans.

6. The committee discussed the May Festival plans and came up with the following details:

It will be called "Celebrate Spring" at Palmer Arboretum. May 22 1-4 pm.

Aaron Bourque has offered to lead bird walks and Elaine Turner and NE Art Guild will conduct a painters' event and provide some easels and supplies.

There will be a Scavenger Hunt, the Letter Boxing Trail, and a Coloring Contest for children.

There may be snap together bird houses.

There will be tours of the Arboretum and flower identification in the shade garden.

Sara will contact Prescott Powers and students at WA to ask for a poster to advertise the event.

The poster design can also be printed as flyers that will be distributed. Sara will post it on social media and it can go on the Arboretum page on the Town website.

The event will be given to LGV to include in their calendar of spring events. WINY radio will be asked to include it in their community calendar. Andy will check with Aaron and Elaine to make sure they are available on that date (she did and they are!).

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 Next meeting on March 11.:

<https://youtu.be/komtFQFIbuA>