

Bedford Arbor Resources Committee (BARC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 23, 2023 7:30PM

Because of the social distancing restrictions imposed by COVID 19, this was a virtual meeting conducted by ZOOM and facilitated by David Manugian.

Attendees

Chair: Molly Haskell. Committee: Dan Churella, Deb Edinger, Jaci Edwards, Bobbi [K1] Tornheim, Dan Smythe, Elizabeth Knox. DPW: David Manugian. Tree Warden: Nick Pouliot. Select Board Liaison: Bopha Malone Public: None

Opening

Meeting called to order by the chair at 7:34PM, followed by attendance, reading of remote Open Meeting Law statement and notice that the Town of Bedford was recording the meeting.

Public Comment

- Edwards: Encourages committee members to fill out Survey regarding Annual Town Meeting.

DPW Communication & Project Updates

- Manugian: Focusing on smaller project program, road repaving, water and sewer work, sewer pump station, a couple of culvert replacement projects, one or two trees may be impacted. Cemetery project is not too far along, there may be some land issues.
- Pouliot: Arbor Day plans, will dig hole and ready the tree.
- Knox, Edwards: Comment about tree planting event. Planned article in Citizen [Knox].
- Tornheim: Regulations regarding Eversource pruning?
- Discussion regarding Eversource pruning. Eversource is exempt from Chapter 87.
- Pouliot: We're also planning tree plantings in the Cemetery.
- Edwards: I wonder whether it would be helpful for DPW to see the list of desired trees for planting in the area of the Jenks Nature Trail.

[Pouliot Leaves Meeting at 7:20, Manugian staying for Tree Policy discussion]

Town Tree Policy Update

- Haskell: Tree Policy Purpose Statement needed.
- Edwards: At what point can we get Town Council involved? The lawyers?
- Manugian: Sure, I can relay any questions. At what point do you want to get Council involved?
- Edwards, All: Best to get Council involved and informed before we move too

much farther.

- Discussion regarding New Tree Policy editing and items
- Discussion of New Tree Policy Presentation Slides: Dan Churella, Molly Haskell.
- Discussion on FAQ and Public Outreach methods and rollout, Bedford Citizen article ideas (Benefits of Trees, Trees & Real Estate, American Chestnut, etc).

Meeting Wrap-Up

- Discussion of open meeting laws regarding sharing and discussion of article drafts.
- Discussion of remote meeting rules, possible extinction or extension of COVID rules.

Arbor Day

- Tree planting
- Edinger: Cultural Council walk along paved portion of Narrow Gauge RT, possible Invasive Species ID walk, date TBD.

Minutes

Meeting minutes from 02/13/23 were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Adjourn

At 9:49 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and unanimously approved

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Meeting minutes of 02/13/23 (author: Elizabeth Knox)
- Agenda (author: Molly Haskell)
- New Tree Policy Draft: *TreePolicy edit1.docx (author: BARC members)
- New Tree Policy Draft Appendix: TreePolicyAppendix Edit1.docx (author: BARC members)
- New Tree Policy Presentation Powerpoint: Tree Policy Presentation V1.pptx (author: Daniel Churella)

Upcoming meetings – Meetings are usually scheduled for the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30PM. Due to the COVID19 restrictions, meetings have been remote, with no in-person attendance. Meetings are scheduled for 4/20/23, 5/18/23, 6/15/23.

Prepared and submitted by Elizabeth Knox

Minutes approved at // BARC meeting