

**Stockbridge Agricultural and Forestry Commission Meeting  
November 1, 2021 Minutes  
Corrected (in red) per December 6, 2021 Meeting**

**Present**

Agricultural and Forestry Commission	Guests
Mathieu Boudreau Erik Rasmussen Lisa Bozzuto Shelby Marshall (Alternate)	Michael Canales Chuck Cardillo

- Matt called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
- Matt made a motion to approve the meeting of Oct. 18.
  - Motion approved unanimously
- **Discussion: Tree City Designation**
  - Lisa:
    - The application is time-consuming but not hard. It has to be renewed yearly.
    - Having the designation benefits us when we apply for different grants
    - We become a member of Arbor Day distribution of ~~free~~ **low-cost** seedlings
    - Obligations:
      - Once a year the SB has to say it is Arbor Day and have some sort of celebration. It doesn't have to be on national Arbor Day.
      - There has to be a public hearing if public trees are cut down. (See Tree Regulations, below.)
      - We have to report the number of trees planted and removed. The Tree Warden will have that data.
    - We have questions about Tree City designation. We need answers from the contact at DCR, and also need to talk to Mark Faber. The next deadline we can meet is in Dec. 2022.
- **Discussion: Tree Regulations**
  - Michael:
    - There are 6 exceptions for a hearing.
    - First, trees may be trimmed, cut, or removed if they endanger persons traveling on a highway. Second, trees may be removed if so ordered by the proper officers, for the purpose of widening a highway. Third, trees may be trimmed, cut down, or removed for the purpose of suppressing pests declared to be public nuisances under section 11 of chapter 132, including Dutch elm disease. Fourth, tree wardens or their deputies may trim, cut down, or remove trees less than 1.5 inch in diameter as measured one foot from the ground, and any bushes. Fifth, tree wardens or their deputies may, if ordered by the mayor, selectmen, road commissioner or highway surveyor, trim or cut down trees and bushes if they obstruct, hinder, or incommode persons traveling on highways. Sixth, tree wardens or their deputies may, if ordered by the mayor, selectmen, road commissioner or highway surveyor, trim or cut down trees and bushes if they obstruct buildings being moved pursuant to section 18 of chapter 85.
    - There is a hearing coming up about a few trees that do not meet these exceptions.
    - If the Tree Warden takes down a tree, he may decide to replace it or plant another tree in any location, but that is not required.
    - See <https://masstreewardens.org/what-is-a-tree-warden/>

- A tree is defined in Mass. General Law as at least 1.5 inches in diameter 1 foot above the ground. Any tree can be removed with a hearing. It doesn't need a hearing if it meets one of the exceptions.
- We want to work up our Town's regulations that will help Tree Wardens from now on. These can include state regulations. We can pull from regulations that other towns have put in place.
- We'll continue this conversation, and work on drafts to review and discuss.
- Erik: He doesn't want to revise a Bylaw unless there's a problem that needs to be addressed. Matt and Lisa agree. We need to talk to Mark Faber.
- The Tree Warden may promulgate regulations, and if they are approved by the SB they have the power of a Bylaw. The AFC can work with him to write regulations. They have to meet Chapter 87 of Public Shade Tree Act, Mass. General Laws.
- **Discussion: AFC Bylaw Update**
  - Matt wants to increase the number of voting members to five.
    - Michael and Chuck agree with that number.
  - If we approve it, we submit it to the SB. If they approve, they will bring a warrant to Town Meeting.
  - Matt proposed a motion: To submit to the Select Board a request to increase the number of voting members to five. Passed unanimously.
- **Ice Glen Suppression Grant Application**
  - Michael will send it to Nicole Keleher at DCR.
- **Adjournment** - Confirm next meeting date and time
  - Next meeting is Monday, December 6, at 6:30. We will discuss the Farmer's Market.
  - At 7:12 pm Matt made a motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

### **Motions**

To submit to the Select Board a request to increase the number of Agricultural and Forestry Commission voting members to five.

### **To Do items**

- Matt
  - Submit the motion to the Select Board
- Michael
  - Submit the Ice Glen Suppression Grant Application to Nicole Keleher