

Johnson Tree Board Meeting March 16, 2022

Johnson Municipal Building

Meeting started at 6:40 pm

Attending: Sue Lovering, Noel Dodge, Brian Vandorn, Jacob Vandorn, Lauren Hwang Finkleman, Lois Frey

Canopy Grant

The tree board was awarded \$5000 for the Canopy grant. This grant will fund items we committed to:

- Treat the ash trees at old mill park for Emerald Ash Borer. Sue offered to find a professional applicator to do the treatment.
- Plant at least 10 rhododendrons from Steve and will cover the peat moss and mulch.
- Arbor Day party on Saturday, May 7, at 1pm to plant 10 trees. We want to get kids involved. Kristen Mcdowel from the library has ideas. Invite anyone you think would like to attend.
- Promotional materials valued at \$200. (no funds for box to put flyers in)
- We need to track hours we spend for grant activities and hope to accumulate 203.5 hours. There is a different \$ value given per hour based on the volunteer.
- \$1000 for riparian planting

Riparian Grant

The tree board was not awarded the riparian grant for \$8300. We would have used those funds for dealing with knotweed at the Johnson Arboretum. Sue talked to Peter Danforth and he said he can get us some money for our riparian area. He knows a potential donor, but Sue hasn't heard back from Him.

Budget 2022

Budget for this year is \$2400.

We plan to purchase supplies for maintaining the trees along the downtown area, including structural soil, mulch and fabric for under the grates.

Fundraising

About \$1500 was donated last year and was put to good use at the Arboretum. Figure \$100 plus cost of plant per planting at the arboretum. This includes amendments, mulch, deer fence, and stakes. We hope to get refreshments donated for the Arbor Day party. Lauren suggested a bake sale to raise funds as well as starting rhododendron seeds to be grown and sold as potted plants.

Boxelder Removal

Eric Osgood said he could use the box elder that is falling down at the Arboretum, He also thought the community oven people could use the wood. They said yes they like the idea. Details need to be worked out.

Arboretum

Jacob asked when the Johnson Arboretum banner should be put back up. It was decided the end of April before the Arbor Day party would be best.

Sue asked Troy about enlarging the mulch storage area but sounds like he resigned. We will have to contact whoever is in charge.

For sprucing up the chain link fence, privacy slats are expensive, silphium will be planted around the mulch storage area that will grow in summer, but die back in winter.

We discussed testing the soil. Noel found pricing of \$15 per sample from UVM.

Gate ideas were discussed for the entrance to the arboretum near the creek crossing. Post sunk in ground, or pipes could work. Sue found a livestock gate for \$250 last fall at Tractor Supply Co. Removable posts sound like a good idea. Jacob will price options.

Kiosk

Seeking a source for plexiglass, Brian only got one response from his Front Porch Forum post. We looked up pricing for 48"x48" 1/8" from uline and it was \$84 which seemed expensive.

We discussed staining the kiosk green and trimming it with some additional wood. Sue said she could donate the stain.

Riparian improvement along the river bank

Noel suggested dealing with the invasives and making sure they are knocked back well before planting in those areas. Sue said she was thinking of planting away from the knotweed to the right of the bat boxes. Willow stakes could work well.

Arboretum Plan

Jacob needs a plant list to identify what is planted where, then transfer the names and size onto the current plan to be copied and laminated for the kiosk.

Street trees

Grates need to be lifted and weeded. We should plan triple the time to do this job because it will be slow.

Spring Maintenance

We scheduled spring maintenance for April 5, 3pm (rain day April 6, 3pm) and April 12, 3pm (rain day April 13, 3pm)

Mill Stone Bench

JHS will loan the millstone, we need to supply the base. Noel suggested getting some granite scraps from Rock of Ages quarry in Barre VT. Sue will call them to check options.

Shade Tree Preservation Plan

There will be a meeting to discuss the plan Thursday, March 17. The Select Board meets Monday, March 21 and will discuss the Shade Tree Preservation Plan helping to define the role and responsibility of the Tree Warden.

Adjourned at 8:55 pm