

West Tisbury Tree Advisory Committee
Committee Meeting
March 31, 2022
12:00pm – 1:20pm

Meeting Minutes – approved 4/25/2022

In Attendance: Timothy Boland, Jeremiah Brown, Emily Ellingson, JT Hunt, Angela Luckey, Oliver Osnoss
Not in Attendance: David Fielder, Jevon Rego

1. Goals and Objectives of this group
 - a. To evaluate existing trees and propose sites for new tree plantings
 - b. To advocate for proper tree planting, maintenance, and care
 - c. Start small – town owned land in Historic District of West Tisbury
 - d. Jeremiah Brown – Tree Warden for 17 years
 - i. Duties include assessing hazards and health of trees; planning and implementing new tree plantings
 - ii. Many hazardous trees have been cut down over the years, but not as many have been planted and this council is an opportunity to jumpstart this process
2. Tree Inventory and Survey123
 - a. Tree Inventory of historic district using surveys created with the Survey123 app
 - b. Q: Who will use this app?
A: The Tree Advisory Council and other trained volunteers, such as Polly Hill Arboretum Interns.
 - c. Q: How thorough will we need to be with assessing tree health?
A: Record basic and obvious information – there is a section that asks to recommend an arborist consultation
 - d. Suggestion to also have a section where one can report diseases pests; beech leaf disease, brown tailed moth, beech bark scale, spotted lantern fly were all examples of issues that are on island or soon could be
 - e. Suggestion to have standard extension publications to refer to and send off samples when unsure of identification of pests/diseases/plants
 - f. PHA will continue to work on Survey123 tree survey – committee members should look over the printed survey and email the group with any suggestions for fields, etc.
 - g. Separate surveys could be created to indicate planting sites and information on new plantings (source, date planted, etc.); committee will discuss at next meeting
 - h. The committee will discuss survey contents and function and walk through use at the next meeting
3. Planting Specification Development
 - a. Tree specifications for planting and caring for trees within the first couple years were presented. Specifications of note include:
 - i. Plant trees 1-2 inches higher to account for sinking and ensure the root crown is not buried
 - ii. Don't dig the hole deeper than the root ball

- iii. Lay compost along sides and not the bottom to prevent sinking and reach more roots
 - iv. Always unglaze the sides of the hole
 - v. If you can take the wire cage/burlap completely off root balls without damaging the tree/root ball too much, that's great; but if not – remove ½
 - vi. Air-spading after 2-3 years was recommended to prevent girdling roots and create a zone of aeration for feeder roots
 - vii. Staking and guying trees - arbor ties may not be enough. It was suggested that for 2-3 inch caliper trees, a duckbill anchor system be used with 1/8 inch wire plus tubing around wire that goes around the branch; guy lines should be removed after 2 years to allow trees to establish on their own
 - viii. Pruning is an entirely different beast compared with tree planting – it was suggested that the West Tisbury Tree Advisory Committee focus just on recommended initial minimal structural pruning such as removing co-dominant leaders, dead/broken branches, etc.
 - ix. Soil sampling before planting recommended
 - b. Jeremiah volunteered to put together a rough draft of a planting specification manual
4. ISA Tree Care Brochures distributed
5. New Tree Planting Sites
- a. List of tree planting sites includes: Mill Pond; Town Hall NE Corner; Upper Lamberts Cove Road Triangle; Field Gallery; Deadman's Curve; Brandy Bow
 - b. Some tree planting sites need attention before others, such as those in high visibility town zones (i.e. near Town Hall and Field Gallery)
 - c. Trees of merit discussed for planting include American sycamore, linden, beetlebung, flowering dogwood, and *Prunus* 'Accolade'

Next Meeting Date: Monday, April 25 at 12pm EST at Polly Hill Arboretum's Education and Botany Lab