

West Tisbury Tree Advisory Committee
Committee Meeting
December 14, 2023
Noon – 1:00pm

Meeting Minutes – Approved January 18, 2024

In attendance: Timothy Boland, Jeremiah Brown, Emily Ellingson, Dave Fielder, Oliver Osnoss
Absent: JT Hunt

1. Approved Meeting Minutes from November 9, 2023
 - a. Minutes were approved unanimously
2. Tree Planting Logistics
 - a. Event is Saturday, April 27th; start date is 9am; rain date is Sunday, April 28th
 - b. Tree acquisition
 - i. Jeremiah has given Sylvan Nursery a copy of the tree list, so they are aware of what we are looking for but cannot give us a solid answer on what they will have in stock for Spring 2024.
 - ii. There may need to be some substitutions for caliper size, cultivars, etc.
 - iii. Sylvan will bill the town directly and figure out tax exemption with the town
 - iv. Other possible options for nurseries if Sylvan doesn't have what we need are Bigelow Nursery and Mt. Warner Nursery Sales
 - v. We will make sure trees arrive at least a week prior to the event. Polly Hill can make sure they are kept watered in their nursery area
 - c. Event Locations
 - i. Tim contacted the Library and they approved the use of the porch for a post-tree planting snacks/drink/gathering station; however, they are hosting a Town Visioning event on the evening of April 26 and all day on the 27th so we will need to keep to the porch
 - ii. Tim also will give a talk at the Library about the event, community tree planting, and the West Tisbury Tree Advisory Committee about a month out from the actual even to garner interest and sign-up interested volunteers
 - d. Event Flow
 - i. Day before activities: Site preparation, including potentially cutting sod, marking and labeling tree locations, placing trees, compost, mulch, and tarps
 1. Mulch will be purchased
 - ii. Day of activities
 1. 9am kick off at Town Hall, Parking potentially at the Grange – Tim will contact the Vineyard Preservation Trust
 2. 9:30am tree planting demonstration
 3. 10am move to planting locations to plant trees with volunteers
 4. After-party in the afternoon (noon, 1pm?) at the library
 - iii. Aftercare
 1. Staking trees that need it afterwards
 2. Cages and buck rub protection

3. Watering – JT mentioned Bartlett could help with this but we may want back-up
- e. Volunteer Planning and Recruitment
 - i. Dave and JT will draft a “Save the Date” and circulate before the next meeting
 - ii. Avenues for recruitment and advertising include Vineyard Gazette, MV Times, Facebook (e.g. Islander’s Talk), PHA email blast, Instagram
 - iii. Volunteer Waivers: Emily will email Jen Rand and ask if the Town has guidance on volunteers or waivers; could use PHA’s waiver and volunteer form as a model
 - iv. Need to work on a list of volunteer tasks
3. Island Pest/Disease Update
 - a. Nantucket has had trouble with Southern Pine Beetle affecting their pitch pines; they will likely remove some of the trees
4. Next Meeting Time, Date, Focus
 - a. The next meeting is planned for **Thursday, January 18th at Noon** at the Polly Hill Arboretum in the Education and Botany Lab
 - b. Next meeting will involve more planning for Arbor Day 2024 and updates on the following: volunteer save the dates (JT and Dave), volunteer waivers (Emily), tree acquisition (Jeremiah), tree planting locations (Emily will print large maps), and event parking (Tim)