

**ARBORETUM COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 7-9 pm, Penn Place

Attending: committee members -- Sean Conlan, Jim Sullivan, Elizabeth Glidden-Boyle, Jane McClintock; Town Arborist – Phil Normandy; Council Liaison – Gerilee Bennett; Residents Tony Altar

**Executive Summary:** The trees have been selected for the fall planting cycle and include a nice diversity of species and ~50% natives. The committee is working to draft tree protection language (for construction/demolition projects) using resources gather by committee members, the town arborist and model language from other towns. The committee is enthusiastic about another round of invasive plant treatments in 8 priority locations. Finally, the town tree walk will be Sunday November 5 at 1p (meet at the post office).

Topic	Action Item
August minutes approval. Approved, unanimous.	Sean will send out September minutes
Resident issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tony Altar mentioned the aggressive trimming on Kenilworth. This was Empire’s work on some sugar maples and while it was overzealous it shouldn’t harm the trees and may be beneficial for the canopy.</li> <li>• Tony also requested advice on a tree in a neighbor’s yard that is in decline and dropping very large branches. He’s spoken to the neighbor several times. It is not a town tree and the committee has no official standing on this. He was already preparing a registered letter to send to the neighbor and the committee thought this was an appropriate course of action.</li> </ul>	
Updates from the chair: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the future we will post minutes to the Town Forum to maximize their usefulness to residents. Only approved minutes will be posted to the town website</li> <li>• Charlie A. reached out to the town about renewing the ESRI license for the tree map</li> <li>• The tree database link has been moved to the front page of the website</li> <li>• Barbara Schidler’s book collection housed at the town office was culled to removed non-relevant or out-of-date books. The remaining ~30 books are stored in the town office.</li> </ul>	Sean will follow up on whether the ESRI license was purchased.  Sean will contact the office about labeling Barbara Schidler’s books with contact information for the committee

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barbara Schidler’s donation to the GP Arboretum has been processed and the town sent a letter acknowledging it. The Chair sent our thanks via Lizzie.</li> <li>• Lizzie and Sean found the documents establishing the “Garrett Park Arboretum” in the town archives. Established Sept 12, 1977 and formalized October 2, 1994. See: 1994_1002_Ordinance94-3_Arboretum.pdf</li> </ul>	
<p>Three projects that were mentioned in the 2023 minutes collection but not completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registering the Arboretum with Arbor Day Tree City (suggested by Barry Linden) or Arbnet.org (suggested by Charlie A.). This may be part of the recommendation in the CAP.</li> <li>• Educational Bugle articles</li> <li>• Tree protection language</li> </ul>	<p>Sean will check with the Bugle about when the next deadline is</p> <p>Sean will round up draft tree protection language we have for people to react to</p>
<p>Arborist update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree selection for the Fall cycle. The committee requested a number of trees including: hop hornbeam, hackberry and basswood. Unfortunately, those weren’t available at the nursery or there were no appropriate planting sites. The current list of 12 trees is ~50% natives. The committee would like to continue to focus on trees that support wildlife (e.g., Tallamy book)</li> <li>• Trees impacted by the Waverly sidewalk project: There was some question from Clark-Azar about saving trees but Phil is certain that, with one exception none of them will survive. He cited several dead trees around town that experienced comparable disruptions (e.g., corner of Montrose/Waverly)</li> </ul>	<p>Please send Phil any sites you know around town that would be good for planting (ASAP)</p>
<p>The Fall tree walk will be on Sunday November 5 at 1 pm.</p>	<p>Lizzie will advertise and put up posters.</p>
<p>The committee is working on treating invasives in town. Vines but also invasive plants (e.g., knotweed) and shrubs (e.g., bush honeysuckle). Phil has drafted a statement of work that was sent to Residential Reforestation. See attached priority list.</p> <p>The committee was open to moving money around to get as much invasive work done as possible while the contractor was in town. Even if it exceeds the original ~\$3600 from last year’s quote.</p>	<p>Wait to hear back from contractor.</p>
<p>Memorial trees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ted Pratt’s memorial tree dedication postponed</li> </ul>	<p>Sean will contact the town office about both.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gene Swearingen’s family needs to be contacted about possibly dedicating a tree to him</li> </ul>	
Under “other business”, Phil pointed out that the grotto ordinance (ORDINANCE NO. 2023-3) has a provision that, “the Town may sell or otherwise convey the northwest portion of the property to one or more abutting land owners, subject to the aforementioned restrictions;” No action require but something to keep in mind given the mature trees on that lot.	Sean will send the ordinance out to the committee.
Next meeting Oct 18 <sup>th</sup> and November meeting on November 15 <sup>th</sup> . Committee doesn’t anticipate the need for a December meeting. Next meeting: We are going to see if the smaller room outside the kitchen has better acoustics.	Sean will check on town hall availability.

Abbrev.

CAP=Comprehensive Arboretum Plan

POSCO=Parks and Open Spaces Committee

GPCAN=Garrett Park Climate Action Network

SHA=State Highway Administration

MOU=Memorandum of Understanding

SOW=Statement of Work

LUAC=Land Use Advisory Committee

Invasive priorities addendum:

1. Mop-up of Cambria Park after last fall's work: any missed bush-honeysuckle, English ivy (one large vine on tree plus sprigs on ground), porcelainberry on ground, and follow-up treatment on Japanese knotweed. Herbicides will be needed on some, as he did last year.
2. Porcelainberry vines on row of tall junipers at train stop
3. Down from that on Rokeby, follow-up of kudzu treatment from last year plus any other invasives encountered (mile-a minute, bush honeysuckle). This is at the curve of Rokeby heading to Wells Park. THERE ARE some valuable shrubs in there that I can flag.
4. Porcelainberry on trees on corner of 4507 Clermont Place with Cambria, plus black fountaingrass strip at curb (spray).
5. 4515 Strathmore, Clermont side at property line/curb: Japanese knotweed patch next to small weeping tree

6. Dogpark (old tennis court) fences vines (cut, maybe no spray) 4501 Cambria
  
  7. Trees 1650 (catalpa) and 1651 (weeping juniper) between the railroad tracks and Penn Place/restaurant
  
  8. If time permits, begin bush honeysuckle in Porcupine Woods
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