



## Meeting Notes

Thursday, June 28, 2018 6:30-7:30

Academy Avenue Park (across from Michael G. Perkins Community Center, 47 Academy Avenue, Middletown, NY)

**Attendees:** *Barbara Bonham, Renee Stover, Alan Lewis, Fred Isseks, Mary Ellen O'Neill, Kirsten Gabrielsen,*

## Old Business

*Below is a listing of Shade Tree Committee winter/spring 2018 activities:*

- February 23, 2018: Barbara and Mary Ellen attended Releaf meeting in New Paltz. The Middletown Shade Tree offered to host a workshop in Orange County later this spring. Later, met twice at Thrall Library to work out the logistics of the local ReLeaf workshop to be hosted by SUNY Orange Sustainability a SUNY Orange.
- March 29, 2018: Mary Ellen, Renee and Barbara Bonham attended the Tree City Ceremony in Albany.
- April 19, 2018: Tabled at the Earth Day Celebration at SUNY Orange in Middletown.
- April 29, 2018: TreeKeeper software training with Dan Bandzak of Davey Tree. Training was held at Rowley Center for Science and Engineering on the SUNY Orange campus.
- May 2018: Karen Emmerich requested tree suggestions for the James Street Parking area. The landscape designers are still resolving some details before the plans are finalized.
- June 1, 2018: SUNY Orange Sustainability and Releaf held the “Getting Back to Basics” workshop at the Devitt Center for Botany and Horticulture. Shade Tree Committee members donated, selected and delivered a *Picea glauca*, white spruce and helped to dig a hole to plant it.
- June 13, 2018: Meeting at the Maple Hill Dog Park (attended by Barbara, Mary Ellen, Alan, Fred, Mary Lou, Bob and Kirsten). Walked the perimeter of the park to access the site and discuss how to move forward with adding shade trees to the dog park. We were informed by Chris Brinckerhoff that our plans must be approved by the Recreation and Parks Commission.

## New Business

### **1) 2018 Urban and Community Forestry Grants Program (Round 14)**

-Barbara informed the Committee that the City of Middletown will not pursue the Round 14 DEC grant due to turn-around time being too short and lack of manpower. The grant application would have been due on 6/12/18.

-The use of the Grant Application Gateway (portal) was briefly discussed and it was decided that we talk to the City's grant writer Caitlin McNamara from the Office of Economic and Community Development about how to proceed.

### **2) Point person with the City.**

-The need for a point-person from the City was again discussed and this is an issue that must be resolved in order for the Committee to be effective in its work. Barbara, on behalf of the Committee, will contact Mayor DeStefano re this.

*(Continued )*

### **Maple Hill Dog Park – Discussion**

The two planting sites will be close to the fencing and would allow for 6 or 7 trees to be planted. The third site identified is along the far end of the large-dog area. This area would allow for 5 or 6 trees to be planted.-Various tree species were discussed and suggestions included Kentucky Coffee Tree, Bald Cypress, Sycamore, London Plane tree, and River Birch. These trees are all fast-growing shade trees and should do quite well in the chosen areas.

-Discussion on the possibility of including a wet cooling-down area for the dogs ensued. Since there is already a wet area where the faucet is, the Committee discussed taking advantage of this existing situation, perhaps even digging out a shallow area and lining it with concrete. The area would be surrounded by hardy tall grasses and water tolerant shrubs.

-A temporary fence to protect the new trees should be included in the plan.

-Survey. It was decided that in order to get a sense of the community's needs and wishes for the dog park, a survey will be created. A couple of committee members will ask dog park visitors to fill out the survey during various days and times of the week during July. The results will be useful to the committee as we go forward.

-Proposed timeline for the Dog Park project:

June – visit to the park, tree planting sites selected, tree varieties discussed, create survey.

July – distribute survey and tally results.

August – finalize plan, including possible rendering.

September – present plan to Recreation and Parks Commission with the hope of quick approval.

September/October – tag trees at local vendors, begin tree planting.

#### **4) City of Middletown Shade Tree link in “Community” tab.**

-Shade Tree Committee Meetings are listed in the Calendar as “last Thursday of the month at 6:30 in the Perkin's Building. Barbara asked for ideas and suggestions to be included on the web page.

#### **5) Use of remaining money in budget to purchase trees for the dog park.**

-The Committee felt that this would be appropriate.

#### **6) Tree-keeper assessment** -discussion was tabled due to time constraints.

#### **7) Rochester ReLeaf Conference** -at this point no one is planning to attend.

**NEXT MEETING:** *Thursday July 26, 2018.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Kirsten Gabrielsen

*Cc'd: Mayor Joseph DeStefano, John Naumchik City Clerk, Middletown Shade Tree Committee, Superintendent of Parks Christine Brinckerhoff, Jacob Tawil DPW Commissioner.*