

Minutes of the Meeting of the Schuylerville Village Committee on Street Trees and Plantings July, 2017 at 5th Old Saratoga Reformed Church.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Trustee Nikki Proctor, Chair

In attendance: Cathy Boden, Rich Furlani, Mary Roberts, Cathy Bowden, Heather Janik, Joyce DeVelder and Dave Roberts

The Chair invited a free-flowing discussion of what had been learned through the visit of Tom Denny of "TreeToga" at the last meeting of the committee. She read from the minutes of that meeting. All agreed that it had been a fruitful exchange and that TreeToga's experience should be a major guide for the future activities of the committee.

It was noted by Mary Roberts and Rich Furlani that the TreeToga plan relates exclusively to large shade trees planted away from utility lines. It was pointed out that the Village probably could not limit itself to such a plan owing to the fact that much of the streetscape in need of re-planting (eg: the entire West side of Broad Street) would require planting under utility lines. Therefore, it would be necessary to consider appropriate selections of "ornamental" trees from the approved list published by National Grid under their tree replacement program. Mary and Rich commented that many of the listed varieties would not be appropriate for various reasons and agreed to winnow the list down to those that made sense for consideration by the committee. Dave Roberts redacted the requirements of the National Grid Program, to wit: if trees selected from their approved list are planted under Nat Grid lines, and if those trees have survived for a set period (6 months?) the utility would pay \$50 per tree.

Some of the details of D.E.C. grants as described by Tom Denny were discussed. Heather Janik has begun researching the process of applying of these or similar grants.

Cathy Boden has downloaded pictures of the Village streets from Google Earth. She agreed to print two copies. One to be used to locate places where trees might logically be planted or replaced; and one for to be used by Rich Furlani to locate the dangerous trees that he has photographed and should be considered for removal.

On the subject of tree removals, Rich pointed out that many if not all of trees identified by his initial survey seriously compromise wires and infrastructure. Dave Roberts agreed to request a walk through of these conditions with the arborist of National Grid to ascertain their interests in removals.

Joyce DeVelder expressed her hope that we could get better coverage of the announcements for committee meetings. Nikki reported that the Village is about to up-date its website and that it will become much easier to post such notes there.

Cathy Boden said that Tara Letzring would be joining the committee at the next meeting.

In calling for the adjournment of the meeting at 8:10 pm Nikki set the date for the next one for August 23, 7:00 PM at the Old Saratoga Reformed Church.