

Petersham Forest & Shade Tree Committee Meeting
June 18, 2015, 5:30pm
Petersham Country Store

Attendees: Melissa LeVangie, Sheila Youd, Tamara Castagnaro, Clarisse Hart (notes), Bob Clark

Overview: The group discussed our new gift account and fundraising, a new Christmas tree for the Common, Wood Bank updates, and plans to map Japanese knotweed along rights-of-way.

Summary of Action Steps

All committee members will:

- Map Japanese knotweed on their parts of the Petersham map (only in the right-of-way). When roads are completed, email the group with results, using road names and utility pole numbers as locators.
- Consider volunteering at Wood Bank work days: June 20, July 19, and Aug 23.
- Get sworn in by the town clerk before our next meeting.

Bob will:

- Check out/flag the possible expansion for the wood landing.

Melissa will:

- Set up our gift account with the town treasurer.
- Ask the Arbor Day people if we can have more hats (and get them embroidered with 'Petersham').
- Check what the scientific name is for a silver fir (the original type of Christmas tree on the Common) and whether we could get one.

Tamara will:

- Give the Tree City USA glass plaque to the library.

Next meeting is Thursday, August 20 at 5:30pm at the Country Store.

Minutes

Melissa called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

Agenda Item 1: Arbor Day Tree city USA event

- Melissa handed around the prizes and swag we got from the [Tree City USA Forum & Awards Ceremony](#).
- **Tamara will take the glass plaque to the Petersham library for our display.**
- **Melissa will ask if we can have more hats and get them embroidered with 'Petersham.'**

Agenda Item 2: PFSTC Gift Account & Fundraising

- Melissa met with Jean Joel, who told her she needs to go to the town treasurer to set up our account. She's tried once and will try again.
- Possibly our next postcard could include a fundraising appeal.
- Melissa is working with Husqvarna to potentially get a discount on equipment for the Wood Bank. Possibly local banks would be willing to donate money.
- Sheila has a \$25 gift card from Hannaford for us.

Agenda Item 3: New Christmas Tree for the Common

- Bob LeGarre has a connection to a farm in Hardwick so he and Melissa are planning a day to go look at options.
- Our group could plan a field trip to Bigelow's or possibly Noel's Nursery.
- Melissa suggested a Frasier fir – about 5 feet tall.
- Bob Clark said the original Christmas tree in town was a silver fir. Melissa will check what the scientific name is and whether we could get one.
- Tamara suggested we invite town folks to help plant the new Christmas tree.
- Placement:
 - Current placement is a little weird.
 - Perhaps it could go on the point, or just north of the bandstand. Once the old tree comes down, people can park on that part of the Common for band concerts without impacting tree roots.

Agenda Item 4: Wood Bank

- Melissa cut for the entire volunteer work day on May 31. Four people helped split, 2 more came. In 3 hours, they cut and split almost 2 cords. For this month's event, the planned crew is pretty light.
- **Next volunteer work days are June 20, July 19, and Aug 23.**
- Melissa got a \$50 donation from Bill Purple for snacks for this month's work day.
- Wood is stacked on pallets at the landing; people are going to be able to take 1 pallet a month.
- Tim has moved some gigantic logs in front of the stacked wood to discourage theft.
- Signage:
 - Would be nice to have something with our logo advertising the Wood Bank work days.
 - Nancy Allen says we don't need approval to put up a sandwich board sign during work days, but we do need approval for something semi-permanent.
 - Sean is working to get us a sign made.
- Melissa made contact with the Husqvarna rep who runs chainsaw training, and he is going to share his training modules with her.

- Melissa is hoping to join Bob C and Sean to look at the Davenport property (possibly the 25th or 26th?). Bob reported that Mike Leonard is preparing a cutting plan for the property. There is severe white pine needle decline this year, and lots of salvage that needs to be done from storms – possible Wood Bank wood?
- Tim has given Melissa permission to use the town's big truck. We could load it up and bring wood to the wood landing.
- **Bob hopes to flag the expansion of the wood landing soon.**

Agenda Item 5: Invasive Species

The group agreed to table the main discussion until Steve H. can be present, but road maps of Petersham were distributed and **each member present signed up for various roads of Petersham to check for Japanese knotweed.**

We are only looking at the right of way – inside the stone wall, or 33 feet from center line on primary roads; secondary roads, more like 20 feet.

- Sheila and Tamara will do Hardwick Road, Dugway, Amidon, Conyoniker.
- Bob will do West Road, Monson Turnpike, Old New Salem Road, New Athol Road, Flat Rock Road, Tom Swamp Road, Camel's Hump, Birch Drive.
- Melissa will take South Street to Nichewaug, Choate, Glen Valley, Connor Pond, Woodward, Dana, Old Hardwick Road.
- Clarisse will do northwest corner of Petersham, Steve H. will do northeast corner of Petersham.

When you complete a road, email everyone. Note pole numbers. Note the size of the patch, in feet. If you notice knotweed on private property, note the pole number. Once submissions come in, Melissa will make a spreadsheet that is accessible to everyone on Google Drive.

Agenda Item 6: New Business

- The Grange is doing a lecture on native pollinators at Town Hall – June 26.
- It is a new year, and **all group members need to get sworn in.**

Next meeting: August 20. (possibly a field trip day in the meantime).