



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON

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Tree Advisory Board (TAB)
MEETING MINUTES
April 7, 2022, 4pm

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Tree Advisory Board was held on Thursday, April 7, 2022, 4:33pm via Zoom.

Attendance

Voting members: Eveline Feldmann, Chair • Marlene H. Wertheim, Vice Chair • Henry May

Absent: Vincent DeVito • Marlon Molina

Others: Tanesia Walters, City Clerk • Elias Gootzeit • Shayne Brooks

AGENDA

1-Approval of Minutes

The March 17, 2022, Meeting Minutes were moved by Marlene, seconded by Henry, then unanimously approved without any changes.

Arbor Day 2022 Planning

2-Planting & Event Location:

Following numerous sites visited all members are in agreement to plant on South 4th Ave/West 8th Street, near the Rebecca Turner Elementary School. The neighborhood lends itself to a city-wide event. There are few trees and it's on the other side of the city respecting the environmental equity we seek. This is to be the kickoff to anticipated plantings throughout the year.

Six cherry trees will go along the rock wall on the public strip. We were considering the option of extending the line along the border of the school lawn. Shayne spoke with the school principal who advised against the latter since the property's future is unclear. TAB will make contact with the BOE to give them the opportunity to comment on the possibility, despite the limited time before the event. For now, we agreed to meet on Monday, April 18, at 10:30 a.m., with the principal and others involved in the planning.

It was noted that 10 days prior, Con Edison will have line markings done for the area of planting.

And, no-parking notifications will need to be placed on the Thursday before, before the digging will begin.

3-Budget:

The budget looks good. Still to be determined is the source for mulch, water bags and wood stakes. The completed budget will go to DPW for approval and vouchers. Still to be discussed with Jen/DPW is the payment process. The Comptroller has confirmed that the fund is established.

Printed materials: There isn't sufficient time to complete our objective of producing an educational trifold brochure. For this occasion, we will distribute free Arbor Day Foundation brochures free of charge. A large stack of Tree City Mount Vernon stickers is being printed for April 30, to have available also for future use.

The invite/flyer will be printed in-house once it is reviewed and approved by Communications/ Mayor and School District for inclusion of their logo.

4-Program (partners and start time):

A program will be distributed to all organizing it and those participating. An enlarged version will be set up on an easel for the public to see. In the effort to use less paper.

For some speakers, our City Clerk will be able to assist and reach out to the names we provide her.

Time - 11 a.m. – No rain date - Rain or shine - trees don't mind!

5-Press release and invitation:

Work will begin on that. Invitation design will pick up from last year's look and feel. Once completed, it will go to Communications for review.

All of us working on April 30 were asked to follow emails to continue in active planning process.

Land-use TAB integration

0 Millington St.:

The TAB Chair sent a letter to the Planning Board Chair explaining that the TAB has not issued comments on the proposal since our board had incomplete information. The PB Chair acknowledged our communication, along with a draft of a tree report established by administrators and the tree surgeon. The TAB Chair sent our information sheets and the link to the Tree Ordinance to all PB members to be certain that they had more familiarity with the TO and TAB. The TAB Chair was invited to speak briefly at the monthly PB session. At that time, a DPW tree report emerged, it was stated the developer will be including some replacement trees, following the recommendations of the tree surgeon. For those trees not replaceable he will be depositing \$11,000 into the tree escrow account. The TAB members have yet to receive a copy.

What still remains to be clarified is the process by which the TAB will be receiving all new proposals and the crafting of the tree report.

Announcements

Site meeting planning: Arbor Day Monday, March 18, 10:30 a.m. with School Principal and partners

Next regular TAB meeting: Thursday, April 21, 4 p.m., at the planting site, as the last meeting before April 30.

Arbor Day 2022 Community Tree Planting: Saturday, April 30th, 11 a.m.

Tree educational and events of interest:

- Tree ID Wonder & Walk, April 9. Text Bro Offutt for RSVP 914-320-1866
- Westchester municipal board member webinars: Sustainability Overview, April 14 and SEQRA Basics, April 20.
- NYS has set up listening sessions for different levels of experience in i-Tree set of tools designed to help communities maximize the benefits they receive from trees; April 14 and April 21
- Pitch-In for Parks, Volunteer event at Willson’s Woods, Wednesday, April 20, 3 p.m.

Dir. Brooks has an important objective, as he settles into his new position, is to develop an advisory board in sustainability/conservation such as we have done after the passage of the Tree Ordinance. He is in the planning process for Earth Day and will let the TAB know in what form we can contribute to the program.

Meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

<https://www.facebook.com/mountvernonny/videos/1363101874135683/>



5/5/2022

Eveline Feldmann, Chair

Date of Approval