

Green Team Meeting Minutes – April 28th

Attendees:

Sue Alexander
Linda Draper
Madeleine Blake
Valerie Beaudin
Joan Martin
Michael Pardieck
Sally Bissell
Suzanne Blake
Melanie Crowder
Ken Rasmussen

Meeting came to order at 6:30

Next meeting scheduled for May 26, 2022 at 6:30 pm Pavilions weather permitting; If rain -Town Hall Conference room

Upcoming Community & Team Events:

- Bayfront Park Entrance for Native Planting Suggestions – May 5 - 4:15
- Health & Wellness Fair – May 14
- Green Team Meeting – May 26
- Paddle & Pathway Pickup – October 1
- Late winter / early spring educational talk with Erica Love, NECC

Bayfront Park

- Bayfront Park Entrance for Native Planting Suggestions – May 5th at 4:15
- Holly has asked the Green Committee to design garden areas for the entrance to Bayfront Park.
- Melanie, Valerie, Joanie, Sally and Linda volunteered to survey and plan the area
- Michael made a recommendation to include fruit trees which was widely accepted.
- Town DPW will prep grounds, landscapers will water and maintain.

Spring Cleanup the Town: April 30th 9:00-12:00

- The Spring Cleanup the Town had approximately 10 volunteers. The town provided hand sanitizer, water, gloves, litter grabbers, bags.
- Areas cleaned – 2 kayakers worked the creek edges, sections of 261 (including near firehall); perimeter of Ball Field, Parking Lot, & Tot Lot; Marsh off Railway Trail.
- Larry used an extension hook and an extension ladder to send volunteers into the marsh. We, GT, may wish to look into other type of extensions beyond a hook which cannot pick up bottles.

Signage & Informational Videos

- Green Team members added signage for the 17th street garden.

- Working with Holly, create a short video for the Town Website describing the use of natives in the 17th street garden and discuss natives in general. Maybe a series of videos, another would be Invasive Species and how to get GT help. The GT set up a committee for this endeavor – Melanie, Sue, Sally Valerie, Holly; the hope is to set up a Face-to-Face meeting to discuss scope and process.

Pollinator Gardens:

- No current discussion

Education and Outreach

- Melanie is reaching out to several resources to invite a speaker for a discussion on invasive species for next inter
- NECC would like to support more workshops of this caliber. They need 6 months to advertise.
- Health and Wellness Fair is May 14 10-2pm. Keith Pardieck is sponsoring. Linda, Sue and Kelly are organizing the table and raffle.
- Holly has asked that the committee create a video for the town website – to highlight the 17th St gardens (ex what plants are there, why are natives important). Valerie will set up meeting with Holly to discuss scope/purpose. Melanie, Sue and Sally volunteered to assist this project.
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Storm Runoff Mitigation

- No current discussion

Tree City USA

- Melanie is researching other Tree City designated towns to schedule a meeting to speak to us about best practices for applying for and on-going maintenance of Tree City designation – maybe a field trip to their town?
- Tree City Town Committee – recommended that members be comprised of Holly Wahl, Jay Berry, Chris Jakubiak, and two citizens (Sue Alexander volunteered)
- Continue to promote Tree City USA certification as part of the execution of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Tree City Requirements: [Tree City USA at arborday.org](https://arborday.org/tree-city-usa/)
- 3 of the 4 Requirements have been met
 - o Community Tree Ordinance – has been issued
 - o \$2.00 per capita on urban forestry – has been designated in the town budget
 - o Celebrate Arbor Day – performed a beach cleanup and dedicated Town Hall Garden to Nancy Fuerle.
 - o Town tree committee still needs to be established.
- Melanie, Ken and Sue will meet to discuss recommendations for the use of the \$17k budget for tree maintenance.

Other Issues

- Valerie is working with town to get committee member t-shirts for use at events.

- Jan recommended town provide location for Community sponsored Agriculture (CSA) produce drop offs. Green Committee supports promoting this effort and other CSA projects.
- Michael Pardieck introduced the committee to a search engine called Ecosia. This engine, used in lieu of Google, Firefox or other commercial engine, donates profits to planting trees around the world.
- Valerie has submitted a budget request for eradication/replacement of Japanese Knotweed
- Recommendation was made to ensure that the next Landscaping contract includes specifics on only using native perennials or minimum use of annuals. Request that Holly includes members of our team in review/execution of next contract.

Other Ongoing Ideas

- Work with Kellam's Field Committee to contribute more rain gardens.
- Make eradication of Japanese Knotweed a priority
- Install a storage box at pollinator garden for green team supplies and equipment behind spigot – hose, pails, shovels, bags, etc.
- Continue clearing vines on Bayfront Park boardwalk and trail.
- Suggestion made to have Liz Orlandi speak to the Comm about options for removal of English Ivy and Barberry invasives.
- Develop Comprehensive Fishing Creek Trail Maintenance Plan to present to town.
- Holly Wahl is researching cost of updating 2 signs on the boardwalk that misidentify bird/otter
- Ivy Cleanup Door Hangers – need to identify point of contact for citizens requesting help; mission will be to educate homeowners how and why to remove ivies from trees; possible have team go out and provide one-off lesson on “how to remove”. Sue will continue to work on design of hanger. Public Works can place the hangers once properties are identified.
- Submit recommendations for possible use of \$2.9M Covid Relief Funds to be granted to the town:
 - o Knotweed removal/restoration
 - o B St slope restoration/reinforcement
 - o Goats to clear ivies at Bayfront Park
 - o Beach replenishment at Bayfront Park
 - o Terracing/rebuild of new B St Park Replace town parking lots with pervious materials
 - o Purchase lands for future parks.

Completed Community & Team Events:

- Spring Clean Up The Town – April 30
- Dedication of Town Hall Buffer Garden in honor of Nancy Fuerle – April 29
- Cleanup of Town Hall area prior to Nancy Fuerle dedication – April 28 - 4:30
- Bee Talk – program was considered a success with 60 attendees and lots of engagement