

Shrewsbury Planning Commission

MINUTES

January 4, 2021

7:30 – 9 p.m.

Meeting will be virtual

Shrewsbury Planning Commission- first Monday Meeting

When 7:30pm to 9pm on January 4, 2021 Eastern Time - New York

Joining info Join with Google Meet

meet.google.com/ugr-otzs-wpi

7:30 to 7:45 p.m. Open to public input

Following public input:

Gary Salmon Shrewsbury Tree Warden joined the meeting to discuss the Vermont Tree Warden Statute Changes.

Call to order

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30.

Attendees: Laura Black, Hunter Berryhill, and Melissa Reichert

2. Approval of agenda, review and/or revision

Agenda revised to accommodate Gary Salmon's contribution on the Tree Warden statute Changes

3. Shade tree Preservation Plan update

Gary Salmon discussed the changes and the role of the tree warden. He discussed the new definition of shade trees and that in order to have shade trees covered we will need a shade tree preservation plan. One of the Tree Warden responsibilities is to identify hazard trees in town right of ways, which Gary has been doing for the town. The Town then removes them based on level of hazard and budget. Usually, 10 to 12 trees a year are removed. Gary noted the changes will allow trees to be removed due to infestations like the emerald ash borer to occur without a public hearing. Gary expressed his vision of what could be considered shade trees in the Town of Shrewsbury which would be the large sugar maples and possibly some other trees located in the town ROW.

Laura expressed that she recognized that Shrewsbury should have a Shade Tree Preservation plan because:

- the duties that the tree warden, Gary Salmon, performed prior to the statute change is important and necessary

- the tree warden previously identified the trees in the road ROWs (53 miles of town road) that need to be taken down, before they fall down, and are potential liabilities to the Town
- The identified trees were then taken down by the Road Commissioner/Crew.
- Under the new statute, trees in road ROW can only be cut down with consent of landowner or the select board, and the tree warden is (by statute) responsible only for identified shade trees.

We discussed the interest in the application for the Urban and Community Forestry pilot project for a Shade Tree Preservation Plan. Melissa will look into the application further and contact Gary on Thursday January 7 about the possibility. We would need Selectboard approval for the application process.

4. Rounds and mail (SPC members' updates and review PC mail received).
Laura discussed budget needs for the SPC and will ask the Selectboard for \$750 for printing and hearing notices as well as other incidentals. Melissa is to be reappointed to the SPC by the Selectboard this year.
5. Town Report due January 22, 2021
We reviewed the Town Report that Laura prepared and suggested a few edits. Laura will finalize and send it to Rich Biziak for the Town Report.
6. Acceptance of meeting minutes of December 21, 2020.
Minutes accepted as written.
7. Potential new SPC members update
Hunter is going to contact potential member before the next meeting.
8. River Corridor Bylaw Draft review
Hunter reviewed the bylaw and made suggestions. We reviewed some of the comments and resolved all of them. Laura will finalize the draft document. Melissa will send the draft to John Broker-Campbell.
9. Zoning and Subdivision changes: Tabled to the next meeting.
 - a. high elevation district
 - b. Access for year-round residences
 - c. Permit process for change from camp to year-round residence and definition of camp
 - d. Access and curb-cut description and process in subdivision regulations
 - e. Boundary line adjustment
10. Town Maps update
Laura obtained maps from Steve Schild and sent them out prior to this meeting.

Next meeting January 18.

Planning Commission, Chair

Date