

## Bristol Tree Committee Meeting

Monday, June 3rd, 2022

5:00 PM

In attendance: Josh Behounek, Jill Steinberg. (Apologies sent in from Chris Urban and John Swepston.)

### Agenda Items

**a) Verify mission statement:**

The earlier statement read as follows:

To assist with the stewardship of Bristol's public trees. This includes working with the municipality and its residents to plan, plant and care for our public trees under the guidance of a Tree Inventory and an Urban Forest Management Plan; promoting street and park trees for their social, environmental, aesthetic, historical and economic benefits to the town; and educating the community about the benefits and requirements of a sustainable tree canopy.

(This was agreed to by those present, but may need more signatures to become official.)

**b) Report on availability of A Johnson funds and what the process looks like.**

The fund consists of approximately \$108,000, which was put into a CD by the Select Board in 2018. Only the interest (approx \$2000) is available to be used.

Josh agreed to look into this further, ie

- To get a report from the treasurer of the exact balance, and maturity date of the CD.
- Of the interest, how much is currently available for immediate use?
- What is the possibility of extracting all or part of the CD prematurely?
- If so, where would the funds be kept, and what safeguards should be in place to ensure they are only used in accordance with our mission statement?

**c) Applying for the status of Tree City USA:**

- Josh will look into this further. One resource discussed was checking with Vergennes which already has Tree City USA status. (Joanne may also be a resource.)  
Also getting the town administrator engaged in the process.

Some benefits of obtaining this status are that Bristol will be taken more seriously when it comes to State funding for tree projects/canopy grants. It will also be a source of pride for the town. (Only 8 other towns in Vermont have this status.)

**d) Discussion around fall Planting**

- i) Need to gather data on tree inventory done in 2016. Hopefully Alex has this data. Josh will check with Meridith
- ii) Would be good to inventory available planting locations
  - 1) Josh will also reach out to Joanne on perhaps using the same app we used for the Ash borer project, when looking for potential planting sites.
- iii) Could we use Town funds for planting &/or should we apply for a Caring for Community Grant?
- iv) How to engage Town in the process

- e) No discussion of how roles for this committee are to be decided. Josh will set up a shared google document so members can share and input.

The meeting was adjourned at 5.30.

Next meeting: Josh will poll committee members as to a good time when more people can attend. For now it's set at Friday July 1, 2022. 5pm Holley Hall.