

**Tree Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 03/05/2013 7PM Community Room 4 Fairgrounds Road Nantucket, MA**

**Members Present:** David Champoux, Paul Droz, Michael Misurelli, Benjamin Champoux, Whit Bourne, Sam Myers, Dale Gary DPW representative.

**Public Present:** Chris Raber, Arthur Reade, Scott?, William Hourihan, Kara Buzanoski, Cormac Collier

**Members Not Present:** Terry Pommet

**Call to order:** Chairman David Champoux called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm.

**Approve the meeting minutes from December 11, 2012:** Michael Misurelli made a motion to approve previous meeting minutes. Ben Champoux seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Hearing regarding removal of 3 town trees located on 112 Pleasant St. @ the Cape Cod 5 construction site:** Christopher Raber Chief Real Estate offer for CC5 explained where the CC5 is to date with the building process which is the approval stage to build their new building. Mr. Raber presented an approved landscape plan and site plan for the proposed new construction so the committee could get a full understanding of the existing town trees. Mr. Raber pointed out original conversations were to possibly relocate one town tree and the HDC also required additional trees to be planted. CC5 was not originally aware that there were 3 town trees to be concerned with on the site. As this became apparent the hearing was scheduled. Dale Gary provided a bit of history behind the town American elms. The town originally planted 75 of them in 1992 and we have lost 2 to date. The town has maintained and cared for these trees ever since.

Warden Champoux asked CC5 representatives to point out where the trees are on the site currently and where they would stand on the finished site if they remain. This was clearly communicated by CC5 and their representatives. Ben Champoux asked how much effort was made originally to site the building around the trees. Arthur Reade representing CC5 pointed out they had no idea these were town trees as no easement appeared for them. There was a discussion on how these became town trees due to their proximity from the center line of the street, their original planting, maintenance, and town bylaw.

Ben Champoux pointed out CC5 is pretty far down the line with the process and we have to come to terms with the value of these trees by a valuation process. There was some discussion on the viability of moving these trees and it was determined it would be too costly and ineffective due to their size. Mr. Reade pointed out they would be planting new trees and we could deal with it that way or another according to the TAC's recommendation.

Kara Buzanski pointed out it was a concern CC5's current plans would not duplicate the size and value of the current trees. Paul Droz recommended taking the total value to replace the trees minus the value of the trees being planted and ask CC5 to make up the deficit. There was a general discussion on the possibility of adding more trees to offset the cost of the current trees. Ben Champoux pointed out the value of the trees specified on the landscape plan do not equal the value of the trees we would be

losing. Dale Gary pointed out that the healthy Ash that is still standing on this site is a rare tree due to the nationwide infestation of emerald ash borer and the fact they are no longer available to purchase and plant.

Warden David Champoux presented a valuation of the current trees that was provided by Bartlett Tree Service using the trunk formula method of appraisal. Princeton Elm 20 inch 11,000.00, Princeton Elm 18 inch 10,700.00, Marshall Seedless Ash 15 inch 6,700.00. There were multiple copies of the valuation available at the meeting. Kara asked if the bank would consider replacing trees that would equal the value presented in the valuation. Mr. Reade asked if the TAC is considering the values of the trees proposed and if the TAC considers that credit toward the valuation. The TAC agrees it does and placed a value of 2000.00 per tree on the landscape plan.

Cormac Collier pointed out he did not notice any town tree discussions during the planning phase. There was discussion of how we got to this point with the actual location of the building parking and the need to come up with a solution for 3 town trees. It was pointed out the trees would be in a slow decline if left in current locations. Mr Collier stated if the TAC is leaning toward replacement and like value to consider, there was considerable foresight into planting trees in this area 15 years ago and it lends amazing views in the area being termed MIPOD (mid island planning overlay district) There is currently allot of discussion with the properties in this area and trees will play a significant role in the future. Cormac asked the town to consider keeping trees on the bank property town trees. Kara pointed out only trees 20' from the center line of the road could be considered town trees.

Chris indicated CC5 was ready to move forward and they would like to set up some agreement to do so. Warden Champoux stated after a guarantee period the town would be willing to take over the maintenance and responsibility of the 3 trees that fall into the town's jurisdiction. Kara stated the 3 trees CC5 were planting could be considered at a value of 6,000.00 in total. Paul Droz suggested the deficit 22,000.00 be made up for tree planting in this area by CC5. Chris indicated if the town would be satisfied with 22,000.00 we could probably come to that arrangement. There was a discussion that money would go to the tree fund for maintenance or specifically for future tree planting in the MIPOD area. Warden Champoux asked if there were any objections and there were none stated. Mr. Reade indicated we had come to terms with the money (22,000.00). Mr. Raber asked what was the town's expectation on the new trees being planted on the bank property? Warden Champoux stated they be cared for over the course of one year then the town would take over. Kara stated if it is alright with the TAC she and Arthur would write an agreement what the 3 trees would be and the agreed amount of 22,000.00 reimbursement to the Tree Fund and it would be documented.

#### **Update town tree work / replacement trees/ storm damage report Dale Gary Town Arborist:**

Dale reported the town trees fared very well over the winter with all the recent storms which is testament that pruning program is working well. Dale will be replanting the two replacements in front of the bank after the stumps are removed.

#### **Discussion on signage for town trees:**

Ben Champoux indicated he and Cormac Collier have had an introductory discussion on adding some signage to feature town trees. Cormac presented a brochure that the Land Council put together for their tree tour. The general thought would be to begin a program of putting medallions on the trees indicating their genus and species. A future possibility would be linking the medallions to a data base that could be accessible by smartphone app indicating relevant information on the trees. The Land Council stated a willingness to assist with this program as it develops in the future. Ben Champoux will do some research on plaques and there was general discussion on how to attach them in a way that would not harm trees.

**Discussion on a proposed chainsaw safety day / class:**

Ben Champoux recommended safety training for chain saw safety. As a board we could reach out to the working community to offer safety training. The TAC thought this was a good idea and will pursue this further.

**Adjournment:**

Warden Champoux motioned for adjournment, Mike Misurelli seconded and the meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.