

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

Tree Council

Agenda

September 12, 2019

6:00 PM

REGULAR AGENDA MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. August 15, 2019

IV. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

V. NEW BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS

VI. DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Lexington Parkway Planting
2. Ray / Cornelius Fall Planting
3. Re-ordering the Master Plant List

VII. REPORTS

1. Public Outreach Subcommittee
2. Tree Inventory / Tree Master Plan Subcommittee
3. Tree Planting Subcommittee

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**NEXT MEETING: October 17, 2019
at 6:00 pm in the *Schaefer Room***

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TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
Tree Council

Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2019

Members Present: Melissa MacKinnon, Chairwoman
Amanda Matuszyk
Amy Howansky
Carol Carey
Laura Robertson, Town Planner

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting came to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Steve Signell, Chris Zimmerman, and Timothy Welch were absent/excused.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Howansky stated there were a few corrections to the minutes. Ms. Howansky proposed revisions to lines 34, 68-69, 83-84, 104 and 125.

The council voted unanimously to approve the amended minutes.

IV. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There was no one for privilege of the floor tonight.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Howansky stated she had a list of classes that could be held for the upcoming year. The council stated they liked all of the suggested classes. Ms. Howansky stated she would be willing to offer a class or two for the Town. She stated she would like to give some classes and would also be interested in possibly working with Continuing Ed if someone had a contact. Ms. Howansky suggested she could give these lectures or possibly Mr. Chinery or Mr. Fred Breglia could also do some lectures. Ms. Howansky stated she also had a contact for a tick awareness talk. The council discussed how to approach a tick awareness talk that would encourage residents to go into the forest and not avoid it.

Ms. Robertson suggested some of the talks could be in the fall and some in the spring. Ms. Howansky stated that would be a good idea. The council discussed which lectures would be appropriate for each season.

Ms. Howansky stated she met a woman from Schenectady and the woman told her that she had a huge Canadian hemlock in her backyard. Ms. Howansky stated that the woman said there was a case of hemlock woolly adelgid on the hemlock. The woman contacted the DEC and felt that no one seemed to care about it. Ms. Howansky told the woman she would inform the tree council that there has been another sighting in the area. Ms. Robertson stated the Town is not authorized to treat or take down trees in resident's yards. Ms. Howansky stated she will speak to the resident and relay what the council said.

The Council discussed the recent planting completed on Lexington. Ms. Howansky stated the trees planted along Lexington Parkway were the wrong trees and in the wrong place. Ms. Howansky stated she

39 was very upset with this news. Ms. Robertson agreed but stated the good news is that they still have the
40 trees. Ms. Howansky gave out a sheet that labeled the trees and shrubs that were selected to be planted.
41 Chairwoman MacKinnon stated she was very upset that the recommendations and work that the Council
42 had done over the course of several weeks on Lexington was disregarded.

43 Ms. Howansky explained to the council that the trees that were tagged to be planted were not the trees
44 that were picked up by the Highway Department from Northern Nursery. She stated the Highway
45 Department picked up oak trees and Norway maple trees and did not plant them in the locations that were
46 marked by the Tree Council. Ms. Robertson stated she understands everyone's frustration and because
47 this is a reoccurring issue she will reach out to the Highway Department and Town Board. The Council
48 agreed that they would like to have a conversation with the Highway Department to work on better
49 communication with the Tree Council.

50 The Tree Council discussed with Ms. Robertson what the qualifications to continue to be a tree city are.
51 Ms. Robertson stated that Supervisor Syed and Ms. Robertson attended the Tree City seminar and was
52 told that as a Tree City, the Town can put up a sign welcoming visitors to a Tree City. Ms. Robertson
53 stated the qualifications include celebrating Arbor Day, having a tree budget, and having an ordinance.

54 Ms. Robertson and the Council discussed possibly hiring a town arborist and or a Town gardener if there
55 was room in the budget.

56 **VI. DISCUSSION ITEM**

57 1. Ace Hardware

58 Ms. Robertson discussed with the Council the proposed plan for an Ace Hardware on Balltown Road. She
59 stated there are some trees on the property that need to be inspected for general health. The Board was
60 concerned if the proposed greenhouse would compromise the existing Silver Maples. Ms. Robertson
61 added the council could look if there were opportunities to plant more trees. Ms. Howansky asked Ms.
62 Robertson if there would be an entrance on the Balltown Road side. Ms. Robertson stated the developer
63 agreed to put in an entrance at the front to promote walkability from Balltown Road. Ms. Howansky
64 clarified with Ms. Robertson that the Council will inspect the Maples and email her with responses. Ms.
65 Robertson stated yes. She added that the process for the Ace Hardware is only in its beginning stages of
66 the application process. Ms. Robertson stated the CAC was concerned about the trees and the Tree
67 Council can draft a formal memo regarding the health of the trees to the Planning Board.

68 2. 859 Pearse Road

69 Ms. Robertson stated the home has some mature trees on the property and the owner would like to know
70 if they are diseased. Ms. Robertson stated the CAC and Planning Board would like the tree council to go
71 out and look at the trees and do a formal memo. Ms. Robertson asked the Council for some tentative
72 times that they could go out and see the trees and meet the owner. The Council decided to create a doodle
73 poll to arrange the best available time to meet.

74 The Council planned to do a walkthrough on both properties and a formal memo for both properties by
75 the next meeting.

76 **VII. REPORTS**

77 Ms. Carey stated she was not at the last meeting that spoke about Niska-Day. She stated the Day was a
78 success. Ms. Carey asked for an update on the Tree Council website. Ms. Robertson stated she still
79 needed to get permission in the budget to buy the domain. It will cost about \$15.00 a month. Ms. Carey
80 stated that was the only hold up and the website is ready to go when the domain is bought.

81 1. Tree Planting Subcommittee

82 Ms. Robertson discussed the mulching letters with the Council. She stated she had spoken to Ms.
83 Howansky about sending letters to businesses regarding volcano mulching. She suggested sending a
84 newsletter to the companies to inform them regarding volcano mulching. Ms. Howansky suggested that
85 she reach out to continuing education. Ms. Foti gave Ms. Howansky the name of the coordinator for
86 continuing education, which is Pam Ober.

87 Ms. Robertson stated that Mr. Zimmerman emailed her and stated they have signed a contract with
88 Weston and Sampson to create the master plan. She stated the next step is to schedule a meeting with the
89 consultants.

90 Chairwoman MacKinnon and Carol Carey agreed to be present when the meeting with Highway and the
91 Town Board happens.

92 Ms. Robertson stated she has been training her interns for Street Tree data collection. Ms. Robertson
93 stated the interns are using an app to identify the trees so when they are not sure they are marking them
94 yellow.

95 Ms. Howansky asked what the status was of purchasing hats or vests to identify Tree Council volunteers.
96 Ms. Robertson suggested getting green vest that would identify the Tree Council.

97 Ms. Howansky asked where the Council was with the Ray Street/Cornelius Street plantings. Ms.
98 Robertson suggested a doodle poll for the date. She stated that the plan is ready to go they just need a
99 date to meet with the community. Ms. Howansky stated she has volunteered to do a slide show and is
100 working on it. She stated it will feature what are the restrictions and limitations of planting sites. She
101 stated she would also add suggestions of trees that would be appropriate to plant in the area.

102 Ms. Robertson stated she would look into funding from the 10,000 Trees are grow funding. Ms.
103 Robertson stated this grant happens every year.

104 Ms. Carey asked for an update of the memorial tree program. Ms. Robertson stated she has spoken to
105 highway about this. The Council discussed different plagues that could go on the tree. Ms. Carey noted
106 that she likes the Memorial Park in Scotia.

107 Ms. Howansky stated she was at Northern Nursery and found a slender silhouette fastigit tree that she
108 thought would be a good addition to find a place in Niskayuna. Ms. Howansky stated they are \$99.00.
109 Ms. Howansky stated they can grow up to 60 feet. The Council discussed where the best place for the
110 tree to go.

111 Seeing no further business, Chairwoman MacKinnon asked for a motion to adjourn.

112 **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

113 The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Street Trees

LARGE TREES			
Scientific name	Common Name	Height (Ft)	Native
Acer freemanii	Armstrong / Autumn Blaze Maple	50-70	
Acer rubrum	Red Maple	60	Yes
Aesculus hippocastanum 'Baimannii'	Seedless Horsechestnut	70	No
Carya Ovata	Shagbark Hickory		Yes
Carpinus betulus	European Hornbeam	40-60	No
Celtis occidentalis	Hackberry	50	Yes
Cercidiphyllum	Katsura Tree	60	No
Corylus colurna	Turkish Filbert	50	No
Eucommia ulmoides	Hardy Rubber Tree	50	No
Ginkgo biloba	Maidenhair / Ginko	60	No
Gleditsia triacanthos	Honeylocust	45	No
Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis	Thornless Honey Locust	30-70	
Gymnocladus dioicus	Kentucky Coffeetree	60-75	
Juglans nigra	Black Walnut	50-75	
Juniperus virginiana	Eastern red cedar	40-50	
Larix decidua	European Larch	70-75	
Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweetgum	75	Yes
Morus Rubra	Red Mulberry	30-60	Yes
Nyssa sylvatica	Black Gum / Tupelo	50	Yes
Picea glauca	White Spruce	50-60	
Pinus strobus	White Pine	50-80	
Platanus x acerifolia	London Planetree	70-100	No
Platanus occidentalis	American Sycamore	75-100	Yes
Quercus sp.	Oaks	75	Yes
Styphnolobium japonicum	Japanese Pagoda Tree	50	No
Taxodium distichum	Bald Cypress	50-70	
Tilia americana	Basswood	80	
Tilia cordata	Littleleaf Linden	60-70	No
Tilia euchlora	Crimean Linden	40-60	
Tilia tomentosa	Silver Linden	50-70	No
Ulmus x sp. – Dutch elm disease resistant	Elm Hybrids	50-60	
Zelkova serrata	Japanese Zelkova	60	No

SMALL TREES

Scientific name	Common Name	Height (Ft)	Native
Acer buergerianum	Trident Maple	35	No
Acer campestre	Hedge Maple	35	No
Amelanchier	Serviceberry	30	Yes
Carpinus caroliniana	American Hornbeam	30	Yes
Cercis canadensis	Eastern Redbud	30	
Crataegus	Hawthorns	35	Yes
Koelreuteria paniculata	Goldenraintree	40	No
Malus sp.	Crabapples	20	
Ostrya virginiana	American Hophornbeam	40	Yes
Parrotia persica	Persian Parrotia	20-40	No
Prunus 'snow goose'	Snow Goose Cherry	30-40	No
Prunus cerasifera	Purple Leaf Plum	25	No
Sorbus americana	American Mountain Ash	15-30	Yes

Specimen Trees & Prohibited Species

LARGE TREES

Scientific name	Common Name	Height (Ft)	Native
<i>Abies balsamea</i>	Balsam Fir	50-70	Yes
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple	75	Yes
<i>Aesculus flava</i>	Yellow Buckeye	60-75	No
<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Buckeye	60	No
<i>Betula</i> sp.	Birch sp.		
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Persimmon	60	
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	European Beech	50-70	No
<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	Butternut	40-60	Yes
<i>Larix laricina</i>	Tamarack	40-80	
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Tree	70-90	Yes
<i>Metasequoia</i>	Dawn Redwood		
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce	40-60	No
<i>Picea meyeri</i>	Meyer Spruce		
<i>Picea meyeri</i>	Red Spruce		
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Austrian Pine	50-60	No
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scotch Pine	30-60	No
<i>Populus</i> sp.	Poplars / Cottonwoods / Aspens	60-100	
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry	50-60	Yes
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas Fir	40-80	
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras	20-30	Yes
<i>Tsuga Canadensis</i>	Eastern Hemlock	40-70	Yes

SMALL TREES

Scientific name	Common Name	Height (Ft)	Native
<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Amur Maple	15-25	
<i>Acer griseum</i>	Paperbark Maple	20-30	No
<i>Acer pictum</i> subsp. Mono	Painted Maple	15-20	No
<i>Acer tataricum</i>	Tatarian Maple	15-20	
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Paw Paw		
<i>Castanea pumila</i>	Allegheny Chinquapin	10-30	
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Fringe Tree	10-20	
<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>	Yellowwood	50	No
<i>Cornus kousa</i>	Kousa Dogwood	30	No
<i>Cornus mas</i>	Cornelian Cherry Dogwood	15-25	No
<i>Cornus</i> sp.	Dogwood sp.		Yes
<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>	American Smoketree	25-40	
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweetbay Magnolia	10-20	
<i>Magnolia x soulangeana</i>	Saucer Magnolia	20-30	No
<i>Prunus</i> sp.	Cherry / Plum Trees	15-40	Yes

PROHIBITED SPECIES

Scientific name	Common Name
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple
<i>Auonymus alatus</i>	Burning Bush
<i>Berberis</i> sp.	Barberry
<i>Celastrus</i> sp.	Bittersweet
<i>Fraxinus</i> sp.	Ash - Susceptible to Borer
<i>Lonicera</i> sp.	Honeysuckle
<i>Phellodendron Amurense</i>	Amur Cork Tree
<i>Phyllostachys</i> sp.	Golden / Yellow Bamboo
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Callery Pear / Bradford Pear
<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	Japanese Lilac

Shrubs and Perennials

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
Adiantum	Maidenhair Fern
Alnus incana	Speckled Alder
Alnus serrulata	Smooth Alder
Amelanchier sp.	Serviceberry Shrubs
Amsonia montana	Blue Star
Anemone Canadensis	Canada Anemone
Aquilegia sp.	Columbine
Arisaema triphyllum	Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Aronia arbutifolia	*Red Chokeberry
Aronia melanocarpa	*Black Chokeberry
Aruncus dioicus	Goat's Beard
Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly Weed
Aster cordifolius	Blue Wood Aster
Aster novi-angliae	New England Aster
Baccharis halimifolia	Sea Myrtle
Baptisia australis	False Indigo
Boltonia asteroides	Boltonia
Caltha palustris	Marsh Marigold
Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonbush
Chasmanthium latifolium	River Oats
Chrysogonum virginianum	Green-and-Gold
Claytonia virginica	Spring Beauty
Clethra alnifolia	Sweet Pepperbush
Convallaria majuscula	Lily of the Valley
Coreopsis lanceolate	Tickseed
Cornus amomum	Silky Dogwood
Cornus Racemose	Gray Dogwood
Cornus sericea	Redosier Dogwood
Dicentra cucullaria	Dutchman's Breeches
Dicentra eximia	Fringed Bleeding Heart
Dryopteris spp.	Shield Fern
Echinacea	Coneflower
Ericaceae maximum	Rhododendron
Erythronium americanum	Yellow Trout Lily
Eutrochium	Joe-Pye-Weed
Geranium maculatum	Wild Geranium
Hamamelis virginiana	Witchhazel
Helianthus angustifolius	Swamp Sunflower
Heuchera Americana	Coral Bells
Ilex verticillata	Winterberry
Iris versicolor	Blue Flag Iris
Itea virginica	*Virginia Sweetspire
Liatris spp.	Blazing Star

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
Lilium philadelphicum	Wood Lily
Lindera benzoin	Spicebush
Lobelia cardinalis	Cardinal flower
Lobelia siphilitica	Great Blue Lobelia
Lupinus perennis	Blue Lupine
Mertensia virginica	Virginia Bluebells
Monarda sp.	Bee Balm
Myrica sp.	Bayberry
Osmunda cinnamomea	Cinnamon Fern
Osmunda regalis	Royal Fern
Pachysandra procumbens	Allegheny spruce
Panicum virgatum	*Switch Grass
Penstemon spp.	Beardtongue
Philadelphus	Mock Orange
Phlox paniculata	Summer Phlox
Phlox stolonifera	Creeping Phlox
Physocarpus opulifolius	*Common Ninebark
Prunus maritima	Beach Plum
Prunus pumila	Sand Cherry
Rhus aromatica	Fragrant Sumac
Rhus typhina	Staghorn Sumac
Rosa palustris	Swamp Rose
Rosa virginiana	Virginia Rose
Rudbeckia sp.	Bl/Br Eyed Susans
Rugosa Rose	Beach Rose
Salix caprea	Pussy Willow
Salix sericea	Silky Willow
Sambucus sp.	Elderberry
Sanguinaria Canadensis	Bloodroot
Spiraea Alba	Meadowsweet
Stylophorum diphyllum	Celandine Poppy
Thuja occidentalis	Northern White Cedar
Tiarella cordifolia	Foamflower
Vaccinium corymbosum	*Highbush Blueberry
Viburnum dentatum	Arrowwood
Viburnum lentago	Nannyberry
Viburnum prunifolium	Black Haw
Viburnum trilobum	*Highbush Cranberry
Vitis vinifera	Wild Grape

*Excellent Fall Color