MINUTES
Tree Committee Meeting
January 21, 20

1. 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE NYACK TREE PROJECT

Opportunity to celebrate, recruit, promote, raise funds

We agreed to develop an **illustrated article** about the history of the program with before and after illustrations, to go out through the usual channels and Nyack News and Views. Google maps have photos from past years.

Additional idea: **Create a handout** designed by a graphic artist to place location around town. This could include an announcement of the launch of the Adopt-A-Block Tree Stewardship Program and call for new members.

ACTIONS:

- Draft the article by Feb 15 Marcy
- Gather photos in **this folder** All
- Draft content for a folded, illustrated handout by Feb. 15 Everyone can note ideas in **this document.**

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2. YOUTH FEST IN MARCH

Rockland YouthFest on Sunday, March 29th from 11:00 AM–3:00 PM at Rockland Community College

ACTIONS:

- Decide if we will have a table there by Jan. 30 All
- Plan display TBD

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3. MAINTENANCE

We need to get out this winter. Jenn can organize young team. We discussed short term needs and creating a handout for property owners that could be distributed by some new volunteers (possibly high school kids). We have more deer guards. We should look into getting larger diameter guards. Some trees that were heavily damaged before we got the guards on last year will likely fail

ACTIONS

- Order large flexible pipe and cut trunk flare guards Steve
- Look into larger diameter deer guards

- Inventory guards and make sure there are enough to place on vulnerable trees by September.
- Organize pruning, assessment February/March work Jenn
- Customize the Tree City homeowner's manual or create a letter to distribute with it. Steve
- Talk to Jonathan about weed whacking
- Look for crabapple varieties with more upright branching Steve
- Tell Jonathan about stumps at 182 N Franklin and 219 N. Midland

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TREE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (ADOPT-A-BLOCK)
We should get this going this spring even if we only get one or two recruits.

ACTION Figure out which blocks to start with, how to train, how to monitor, equipment, recruitment Elyse

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OUTREACH
We need to review, update the websites and consider new outreach. We discussed the ways we may be able to involve school students, including having them help distribute materials door to door, participate in meetings for a year. Our outreach efforts this spring will be focused on the anniversary materials

ACTION; Review VON and PC webpages Kathleen

SIDEWALKS AND TREES
Discussion: We considered how to advance better sidewalk projects that protect trees and maximize soil volume in the many constrained sites we have in Nyack. Grants from various sources fund sidewalk projects and depaving projects that enhance walkability and providing green infrastructure. Guidance on sidewalk/tree planting design will be useful for the Village, and could be used in grant applications. The Climate Smart Committee's Transportation subcommittee would also have an interest in working on this topic.

ACTiONS
(Marcy to initiate)
- Assemble guidance
- Investigate grant opportunities (Climate Smart Communities, HRV Greenway,
- Discuss with CSC Transportation subcommittee
- Discuss with Andy

URBAN FORESTRY GRANTS
Discussion: The grant opportunity is expected to be open this year. If so, the Village intends to apply for grants for inventory/management plan and maintenance.

DEPAVING AND OTHER COMPLEX PROJECTS
We need to spend some time considering how to get more depaving projects done on private property. Can donated funds be used for this?

Marcy will develop plans for Gisondi's property on South Mill and needs to clarify Village's position on the ROW that Gisondi has appropriated. This is similar to the situation at the corner of Burd and Washington.

TREE TRACKER

Discussion: As part of NY's 25 million trees project DEC encourages recording trees planted via the Tree Tracker. Steve will take on this task for us. Eleyse noted that entering the data could be a good task for a disabled volunteer.

ROCKLAND GARDENS

Marcy will develop recommendations for Rockland Gardens on planting locations throughout their property. Those that are appropriate for the Tree Project can be considered for the fall planting.

NYACK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

After reviewing the letter to the superintendent Marcy drafted the team agreed that it should cover only the planting a BOCES, and the questions about the planting plans for the parking lot at the high school and other details should be addressed later. The letter should be clearer about the specifics of the offer. We agreed that the proposed trees would on be along the fence at N. Midland and Haven Court fence.

ACTiON

Revise letter and site plan.
Send letter by Jan. 30

SPRING TREE LIST

Kathleen and Marcy are working on it, aiming to finalize by Feb 1.

> **Oak Hill Cemetery**
> Kathleen is trying to get a plan in place with Bill Batson and Jay Philips for planting on the cemetery property along 9W.
> **Fifth Ave Lilacs** We agreed they are stunted and should be replaced

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OTHER INITIATIVES

Marcy is working with Sheean Haley on a plan to create a mini-forest in the county, ideally in a County Park with buy-in from Cornell Cooperative Extension, Rockland County, Lamont, and other partners.

Marcy has suggested to the Climate Smart Committee that they consider helping organize a team of community partners (county -wide) to create large fair for 2027 focused on natural resource-released groups, programs, projects, and places.

TREE DISEASE

We need to follow through on treating two ash trees on Main St. Jennifer and Marcy
Also learn more about Elm ZIg Zag fly.

CODE AND POLICIES

We tabled the discussion of the code and policies and will put this on the February are agenda.