

Shepherdstown Tree Commission Minutes

March 8, 2018

7:00 p.m. Town Hall

1. Members Present: Lori Robertson, Frank Welch, Bernardine Somers, and James Dillon.

Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by L. Robertson.

2. Approval of October 17, 2017 Minutes:

F. Welch – if there are no objections, move to approve the October 17, 2017 minutes. None noted.

3. Visitors: None

3a. Visitor's Comments - are logged in where applicable.

4. Unfinished Business:

a. WWI Plaque for Rumsey Park by lilacs and forsythia. The plaque will say "Garden Planted in Memory of WWI Veterans". Lori to order once the work is done at Rumsey.

b. Ann Magnolia – Princess St replacement – pending until the curbing is fixed.

c. Tree replacement on Washington St. where tree fell recently – J. Dillon suggested a Hornbeam and will get it ordered. Completed.

d. Verbiage for Comprehensive Plan –input from Commission. Pending.

e. Tree wells –Will have Jennifer to assess and do the work. Lori reached out again to Jennifer.

f. Shepherdstown Cemetery, Library, German St. extended, Nancy Craun, Rumsey Park.
- Completed

g. S. Princess tree recommendations – no good space to put any. Completed.

h. 305 West German St – Deb Tucker – tree trimming request. Bartlett to assess.
Completed

i. Viola Devonshire Park – tree planting, west fence – James to look at to plant a new tree.

James assessed and there is already a tree there that is doing ok. It does need to be weeded and mulched regularly. Lori to ask Jennifer.

j. 125 W. German St – Ellen Hoffman – branches leaning on roof. Bartlett to trim. Completed.

k. 103 W. High St –old, leaning tree – pulling up sidewalk – Bartlett to assess. Completed.

l. St Peters Lutheran – Christine Wilson – Church & New St – trim roots. The town will fix this by taking out part of the sidewalk and put gravel down.

m. SU hill – 3 trees to be planted – Black Gum “Wildfire” Reach out to Holly Frye to see if SU will pay/help pay for at least one tree. Will look at those for the fall or 2018. Choices are Zumi Calocarpa Crabapple or Winter King Hawthorns. Lori will call Webers and Readings for availability.

n. Budget – our budget has been increased from 10K to 20K.

5. New Business: SEP

a. Rumsey Park clearing update – extensive trimming, pruning, thinning at rear of Park to the right and left of the monument, along both sides, the rear of the monument along the wall and beyond the wall towards the tracks. Completed.

b. Monarch Garden discussion - if Parks & Rec is agreeable, to create a Monarch Weigh Station garden along the left side just before ascending the stairs to Rumsey Monument. This location was deemed the best by J. Dillon and Sustainable Solutions. This area has been cleared and will need to be sprayed soon with a river-friendly herbicide and again in the fall. The summer of 2018 will require there to be prepared for planting. There is a grant available that is due June 30th. One is through the Monarch Conservation Weigh Station group, and there is one out of Hagerstown. Once the garden is established, volunteers are vital to the success of the garden. It will require spring maintenance with all plants being cut back and mulched, and the weeds controlled every 3 weeks.

James will do a riveting presentation about this garden to inform and attract potential volunteers. B. Somers offered her 7th and 8th graders as volunteers and they can be used September through June 1. The parents might be interested as well.

If at least two Monarch Weigh Stations are created within town limits, there is a Mayor's Monarch Pledge recognition through the World Wildlife Federation. L. Robertson offered to create one in the Princess St. Urban Garden. B. Somers offered

to do one as well at Morgan Academy. James also suggested a "Tagging Event" where the kids tag the butterflies with a sticker.

James suggested Monarch Butterfly plants such as; Golden Rod, Asters, Swamp Milkweed, Butterfly Weed, and Sunny Meadows sells a Butterfly Bush that is not as invasive as the standard ones. The Shepherdstown name for the volunteers could be "The Monarch Tribe".

James to send a packet of info for Parks & Rec members to look over. It was suggested as many of the Tree Commission members attend the next P&R meeting.

6. Maintenance/Misc. – Bartlett Fall 2017

L. Robertson – if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 8:15 pm. No objections noted. Minutes respectfully submitted by L. Robertson, Chair.