

Victor Tree Board Meeting Notes of 8/25/15

Attendees: Judy McMillan, Bob Haggett, Bill Bross, Andy Pleninger, Gene Pratt

Discussion:

1. **Review of New York State Urban Forestry Council Meeting** – Bill Bross

Bill attended the council meeting in Syracuse and participated in two group presentations.

a. The first session was a presentation by Dave Nowak of the USDA Forest Service. Points from that discussion are as follows:

- Urban forests are decreasing nationally while the footprint of urban areas are increasing
- Global climate change presents a challenge to urban forests
- Invasive species are a big problem – emerald ash borer
- New York State has the dubious honor of being the “invasive species capital” of the US
- The group is engaged in an effort to bring back the American Chestnut.

b. The second session, presented by Mary Kamarcuk, related to grant applications.

- \$1M will be available in Fall, 2015 to support urban forestry efforts
- An on-line application process required
- The approval process for applications is based upon a list of criteria that was briefly discussed.
Action Item- Bill will provide the tree board with a listing of the criteria.
- Membership in the New York State Urban Forestry Council organization is desired for communication purposes related to grants and other topics. **Action Item** – Bill to gather information.

2. Tree Related Concern of Resident at 21 East Street

Per the direction of Andy Pleninger, Terry Tree Service inspected the maple tree of concern and did a safety pruning. An aerial assessment of the tree health was completed and found to be satisfactory. This tree will be monitored as part of our efforts in inventorying the village trees.

3. Village Tree Inventory Process

Andy reported that the contract is “in the works”. The cost will be at a rate of \$3.05 per tree and a

\$600 fee for accomplishing a risk assessment and the need for any immediate action regarding the village parks. **Action Item** – Andy to forward contract to Gene when complete.

4. **Hang Around Victor Day – Sept 12**

Bob Haggett and Bill Bross will be in attendance at our booth with Larry Rhodes filling in as needed. Bob has prepared some display information for the table that will highlight our current and future efforts. The Tree Board will be sharing a table with the Village of Victor.

5. **Meeting Dates**

The group discussed the issue of schedule conflicts. After considering all of the input from members the second Monday of the month at 7PM will be our monthly meeting. With that said, there is a conflict with the Village Board meeting in September so this month's meeting will be on Wednesday, 9/16 to avoid that conflict. Here's the schedule for the balance of the year:

September – Wednesday, 9/16

October – Monday, 10/12

November – Monday, 11/9

December – Monday, 12/14

6. Victor High School Student Participation

The board would like to encourage participation of a student with the efforts of the tree board. The student may be a member of an environmental club or similar at the school. **Action Item**-Gene to discuss with Regina.