

Tree Advisory Committee

1/08/26 6pm Town Hall rm 101

MINUTES

1. Tree List for Residents

-Discussed the need for useful categories of trees to help residents choose the correct tree for their situation.

-Discussed classifying trees as small, medium, large with a description of each tree to include: root structure, growth rate/longevity, ideal soil conditions, water requirements, sun/shade requirements, appearance/notable features (including 'messiness'), and native/non-native to be used as the categories to help residents determine what tree/s will be best for their situation.

-Talked about providing a general narrative about trees to residents that they can read through before looking at the list of trees: general growth habits of trees, things to look out for when planting trees, advantages of planting native vs. non-native trees, etc.

-Discussed creating specific categories for trees that can withstand high winds and heavy snow/ice load, and trees that can be classified as 'ideal street trees' based on the specific issues Bethlehem residents deal with.

-Reviewed the tree list that was provided to the committee: Discussed which trees to add to or subtract from the list, divided the list up so that each committee member will be working to fill in all the information necessary to complete each tree's description.

2. Formats for the tree list

-Discussed an online format that residents can use filters to help narrow their search for the ideal tree.

-Discussed the need to create a hard copy format of the narrative and tree list in addition to the online format. Formats of hard copies to be discussed at a future meeting.

3. Closing thoughts

-Publicity

-Discuss ways to promote existence of the tree advisory committee

-Invite neighboring town's tree committee members to share insights and experiences

-Emphasizing our desire to build a strong and positive working relationship with the Bethlehem Highway Department