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The Helena Bailey Spencer Tree Fund Committee meeting was held on March 19, 2026 at 3pm by Zoom.

Present were Chairman Sue Mayne, First Selectman Colin Moll, Anita Wardell Joyce Zien, Danna Gaunter, Todd Mervosh, Treasurer Kacy Colston and Secretary, Judith Hanmer.

The meeting was called to order at 3:pm. Angeline Driggers and Rose MacNeely were welcomed as guests (soon to be new members).

The Secretary's report was accepted. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Tree planting quotes from several landscapers were discussed. The quote from Bill's Landscaping for the Arbor Day planting of 3 trees at McAlister School for \$2600 plus any additional time overages was discussed. Some of the time might possibly be donated. Anita moved that this quote be accepted and it was passed unanimously.

Outback Landscaping quoted a very good price of \$5116 for the planting of 18 trees on Main Street. Judy moved that we increase the amount available to spend to \$7000 if needed, as this was our first time using Outback. This was passed unanimously.

Tree orders at 3 nurseries for the 20 trees to be planted this spring totaled \$8754. Joyce moved that this be accepted as presented and was approved unanimously.

The funds available in our Municipal Account including the Town of Suffield donation of \$1600 from the DPW tree budget to pay these anticipated bills is not enough. It was decided that \$10,000 would be requested from the Trees for Suffield Fund at Greater Hartford Gives to be added to the Municipal Account. Colin moved to request that amount and it was unanimously accepted.

Danna and Judy gave an update of the 250th Liberty Tree event. Sue explained that we have a Red Oak on order but Green Machine might donate one of theirs. Sue is waiting to hear from them. Bartlett is donating scarlet oak saplings to the first 50 attendees of the Liberty Tree Ceremony. Suffield students will give a presentation about a Liberty tree. Colin will read a Proclamation and Tami will be there as our guest. There may be music from the school also. Joyce is waiting to hear. It is still a work in progress.

- Arbor Day planting day at McAlister School will be decided by the school.
- Danna has worked on a calendar for Observer articles.
- Kacy will apply for a \$5000 grant at the J Gladwin Cannon Trust for the fall pruning.
- Possible program with Suffield Land Conservancy on Forest Bathing planned for fall. Danna will follow through.
- It was decided that we will be at May Market this year. Planning in April.

The next meeting will be at the Suffield Volunteer Ambulance Building on Bridge Street on TUESDAY, April 14 at 3pm. Members should be sworn in by the Town Clerk before the meeting.

Judith Hanmer, Secretary.