



Minutes of the Annual Meeting

108th Annual Meeting • Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Online Meeting via Zoom (due to COVID-19 pandemic)

Opening. The annual meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. on February 16, 2021 by President Paul Sellers. The meeting was held virtually on the Zoom platform, with 35 voting members in attendance.

In Memoriam. Tom Chamberland had previously led the group in observance of silence at the beginning of the online webinars in January.

Minutes of the previous annual meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes of the January 7, 2020 annual meeting as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Edward Olsen reported and presented the balance sheet of the association as of December 31, 2020. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Seedlings Report

David Hawkins reported that 2020 was not a good year, largely due to the pandemic and the resultant cancellation of many Arbor Day celebrations. Total sales amounted to 14,090 seedlings, for a gross income of \$19,068. Expenses were \$20,123. The expenses included five MTWFA scholarships totaling \$6,800, including \$500 for the Dennis Ryan Outstanding Arboriculture Student Award, the joint scholarship with MAA. The net loss for the Scholarship Fund in 2020 was -\$1,054.

Scholarships

The association awarded \$6,800 in six scholarships in March 2020, including \$500 for the joint MTWFA-MAA scholarship honoring Dr. Dennis Ryan.

- Scholarship recipients were Cory Rebello (*Dr. Dennis Ryan*), Alexander Elton (*Dr. Malcolm A. MacKenzie*), Myles Barnes (*Seth H. Swift*), Chadd Morin (*Prof. Gordon King*), Ryan Suttle (*Fred C. Burk*), and Andrea Morin (*Louis J. Casasanto*). (The names in parentheses represent the named scholarship received by each student.)
- Applications have been received for the current year. Awards will be presented later in the spring.

Education and Professional Development Series (PDS)

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic shutdown, no training workshops were held this year.

Western Mass. Tree Wardens

Also due to the Covid-19 pandemic shutdown, the Western Mass. chapter was forced to cancel its first 2020 meeting, scheduled for March at the Bluebonnet Diner in Northampton. It was not possible to hold any further meetings in 2020.

Nominating Committee. It was noted that Kent Warren and George Ackerson have resigned from the board. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the 2021 slate of new officers and executive board as presented.

New President. Outgoing President Paul Sellers introduced MTWFA's new president, Arthur Goodhind, tree warden for the Town of Natick.

Association Award. As his first official act, President Goodhind announced that the Nominating Committee has selected Dennis Fazio, tree warden for the Town of Wakefield, to be this year's recipient of the Seth H. Swift Tree Warden of the Year. Dennis thanked the association for this award, and Art and Dennis look forward to planning a fall 2021 celebration and tree planting in Wakefield.



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President Goodhind also announced the hope that the association will be able to celebrate *last* year's recipient, Christopher Scott of Chicopee, with a tree planting in his city this spring. Both tree planting events will be dependent on the pandemic guidelines in place at the time.

Massachusetts Qualified Tree Wardens (MQTW). The original plan was to offer the MQTW training course every other year, in alternate years with the UMass Green School. Plans are being discussed to hold the third MQTW course this fall, and whether it will have to be held virtually on Zoom.

Adjournment. Motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the 2021 Annual Meeting at 11:30 a.m.