

**Town of Canandaigua Tree Committee Meeting
11 October 2021, Miller Park**

Present:

Dennis Brewer, Dan Marion, Eric Obenauer, Edith Davey (notes)

Evaluation of the condition of established tree plantings in the north section of Miller Park resulted in the following observations:

The selection and variety of species present is appropriate and pleasing.

Dead trees should be removed and replaced.

Removal of stakes and wires around the plantings should be undertaken immediately. Some stakes have fallen and wires have become embedded or are in danger of being embedded in the trees. Trees are now straight and mature enough to not require or benefit from staking.

Pruning is necessary to remove dead branches and cross-branches to preserve the appearance and health of some trees. Dan Marion has offered to teach appropriate Town staff proper pruning techniques. Edith Davey suggested opening the session to Town residents as a public education project.

Many trees show signs of drought stress from lack of watering and mulching in prior years. (Fortunately, rainfall has been adequate this summer.) Dead branches at the top of the plants and sprouts originating from the lower trunk are indicative of this condition.

None of the plantings have been mulched in recent years. Ensuring adequate water and mulch would be beneficial and would protect the large investment the Town has made in establishing these plantings. Maintenance is more cost-effective than replacement.

There is good protection from buck rubs for many of the trees. Although the mowed paths are helpful in reducing competition from other vegetation, damage from lawn mowers and/or weed eaters striking the trees must be avoided. Breaks in the bark invite fungus and bacteria.

Future plantings are recommended with these considerations:

Trees could provide a wind break for the gazebo.

Groups of trees of the same species create a more natural aspect – e.g. a circle or arc of three trees.

Preserving the open space in the central part of the Park by not planting trees there protects the important bird habitat that has been allowed to prosper.

Observations from the “Peanut Line” trail:

Poison ivy is abundant on the entire length of the trail,

Very large growths of poison ivy are present around the steps and platform (installed as an Eagle Scout project). Platform and steps need an application of wood preservative. A large dead apple tree is located above the platform and should be removed as a matter of public safety.