

TREE STEWARD MEETING

January 24, 2026

Attendees: Melody Hotek, President; Henry Pickard, Vice President; Emily Huttar, Secretary; Vicki Althaus Treasurer; Andrea Lo; Katie Carr; Bill Grewe; Joan Grewe; Andy Miller; Margie Miller Carolyn Sinclair; Evelyn Garland; Louise Labarca; Karen Leonard; Debbie Talley; Linda Bartlett; Johnny Goodine; Bill Lacy; Dianne Lacy; Nancy Sabella; Pam Forshee; Cheryl Crabbe; Ron Perlik; Nancy Kiel

Melody opened the meeting at 10:25am and started with an introduction with everyone in a circle and asking various questions about who belonged to each topic. Very entertaining and a great way to start the program.

Tree Steward T-Shirts - Sherri Sears gave an intro about her T-shirts and other clothing and the printing capabilities on them, which were endless. She has a shop in town and on line. Shirts are machine washable/dryable. One can choose your own color and style for Tree Steward shirts with our logo on it. Options in material as well. She can put logo anywhere on the shirt and can print a tree 14" by 12". The Tree Stewards will decide on the design to be used for our "official shirts" at our meeting in February and let her know our decision. Meanwhile anyone can place an order for any other clothing with whatever printing you want at her website: Thestichesandbows.com

Minutes of November Meeting were approved as presented

Financial Report:

As of December 31, 2025 Balances were:

Operating Acct.	\$1,237.22
Savings Acct.	<u>\$5,176.58</u>
Total	\$6,413.80

Vicki presented the details of income and expenses to date and noted that the Grant money has yet to be received.

See website for details of expenses and income.

Melody explained that the Grants come from the Virginia Department of Forestry and that the Town gives us \$2,500 each year which we will be getting soon.

A question about the Forestry Department giving a tree for every Cavalry Pear that one removes was brought up. The Department of Forestry has not announced the details of the program yet, but said the program will continue.

Vicki and Melody explained that the Minutes and Financials will be available on our website as PDF files available to all. Older ones will be archived as Google Docs and access can be obtained from Vicki or other designated persons(tbd).

Nominations—Melody has talked to Nancy Kiel about becoming President, Joan Grewe as Secretary, Katie Carr as Vice President and Margie Miller offered to be Treasurer.

Melody made the motion for the above nominations and it was seconded and passed.

Break

Nancy took over as President and explained that the form that was passed out needs to be filled out and turned in to her. She then asked if any committee was left out on the form. (Festival of Leaves was added and Belle Grove changed to Garden Fest). Melody explained that we wanted to limit the things that we want to do in each year so that we don't get overwhelmed.

Explanations about some of the committees were given. Happy Creek Arboretum is a project that needs more attention. Henry stated that he will no longer be able to do the posts for the signage.

Melody pointed out our obligations:

Happy Creek Arboretum - works sessions in March and April to prepare for Arbor Day and Tree Signage Decisions

Outreach – Lone Pine Day/Arbor Day/Earth Day has become a big event where we give away trees and there are many booths concerned with the Environment. This year we celebrate on Sunday April 26th

Taste of Books Sat. April 25th we have a booth. Joan, Margie, Vicki ae on the committee.

Garden Fest (June)

Festival of Leaves (Oct.)

All About Trees (Sept. Oct)

Hanging Baskets (May) No more donor signs will be on baskets, due to problems with them. Melody said that according to the Town, the Flower baskets will continue whether or not we raise enough money to cover the cost, as they are a well-known symbol of our Town.

Scholarships

These are our main missions. The other committees may need to be incorporated into existing programs.

Next meeting February 16th 6:00PM Library

Joan announced that the Warren/Fredrick County paper no longer will be printed. They will be digital and can be seen at: WarrenCountyVa.com . Ask Stewart will still be a part of the issue as it is very popular.

Data Centers in Virginia A paper about Data Centers in Virginia was distributed. It explains the online sites to view regarding the implications of having them in our community. Nancy will be attending a meeting on Datacenters. We need to know about them and learn about the concerns, including health concerns. The promoters of them do not deal with these concerns.

Communication to Tree Stewards - Nancy will email members unless you specifically ask for a text. Discussion followed regarding emails/texts. Henry said Track It Forward has the capability to mass send them, as all members phone numbers and emails are on its site.

Thanks were given to exiting officers and Nancy gave each a card and the flowers to Melody, Vicki and Emily.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35pm

Respectively submitted,

Emily Huttar, Secretary (2025)