

Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2026

1. Meeting called to order by the Chair, Helen Weingart, at 3:08. Present were members: Dave Stone and Leslie Ricklin
2. Leslie moved and Dave seconded to approve the minutes of the special meeting of March 5, 2026. Motion carried.
3. Budget review re: town memo freezing expenses: Our town approved budget has been spent.
4. Discussion and possible action on the following:
 - a. Plan for Arbor Day (April 24): Edward Smith has agreed to present a program using bark and seeds to identify trees. We will need foam boards and a flyer for advertising. Helen will purchase the foam boards and work with the Library Director in developing a flyer. Dave said he would send the flyer electronically to the schools.
 - b. Status of tree health after the tough winter: Dave reported that he had not seen any serious issues, but that there might be some damage noted once he sees more bud/leaf development in a couple of weeks. He will also check the holly, in particular.
A Work Party is scheduled for April 7, 2026 (Tues.) at 6:00 to do mulching and to replace damaged plaques.
 - c. New tree requests and installation of memorial plaques: Dave will meet with Bert Gunn, who has requested #41 Red/Sugar Maple Cross about the plaque he wants and the placement of a bench. **The plaque that Jim and Sheila Randall want at # 16 the Thornless Honey Locust will be placed by Arbor Day.**
Helen said that she could provide Dave with a sample plaque for the mold used to cast the bases.
 - d. Review need for plaque replacement and new bases: **Helen also said that she would do an inventory of the plaques by April 7 to see how many must be changed.**
 - e. Update on status of revising the Arboretum Ordinance to include the responsibility for the Pollinator Pathway: Dave reported that Dennis O'Brien, town attorney, hopefully will revise this soon so that the Arboretum Commission and Board of Selectmen can review and approve it by the Town Meeting, April 27, 2026. **The Arboretum Commission will call a special meeting for this purpose on April 7 at 5:00.**
 - f. Update on the status of the DOT permit: Dave and Jordan Lumpkins, NECOGG administrator, are working on this.
 - g. Consider the role of the Arboretum Commission in the 250th Celebration: Helen will follow up with UCONN School of Agriculture about the process for receiving a Charter Oak seedling that we can plant at the Park. Dave stated that we need to know more about how the seedling was planted, fertilized, watered, etc. to be sure that it has a stronger chance for survival once we plant it.
5. Next regular meeting: April 28, 2026, at 3:00 at the Town Hall

6. Items for next agenda: Need **special meeting re: the Ordinance. This will be on April 7, 2026, at 5:00 before the Work Party.**

Other issues to be brought up at the next Regular Meeting:

- Develop a Fundraising Plan (ex.: t-shirts, speaker program, caterpillar video)
- Final plan from Lisa, landscape architect, on the Pollinator Pathway
- Plan for Chaplin Day, Sept. 19, 2026

7. Meeting Adjourned at 4:00: Dave moved, Leslie seconded. Motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Ricklin, Secretary