

Plymouth Town Common Evergreen Tree Project

By Steve Rand

While Main Street Plymouth Inc, (MSPI) was in operation, back in 2003, Pelletieri Associates, an architectural firm working on PSU's Landscape Design, was engaged to make proposals for improvements to the Town Common. Among the suggestions they made and illustrated was for an evergreen tree to be planted on the north end of the Common to act as a focal point, and as a permanent object for Christmas Decoration. Almost twenty years later, this idea is coming to fruition.



Last fall, in coordination with the Town's Park and Rec Department, Pemi Tree Works donated the removal of the red maple tree in that location and a small group of volunteers erected a small natural Balsam which was decorated with lights and colorful red bows for the Hometown Holiday Celebration. Since then, the committee has secured the donation of a large Wellington Blue Spruce to be planted in the space. The tree is generously donated by Shinboku

Nursery of Warren, all balled for re-planting on the Common sometime this week. I'm attaching a picture of the new tree before being moved, and a picture of the concept sketch from 2003. As you can see, it pays to plan, even if the result takes 20 years.

In preparation, A.F. Roy was engaged to grind out the stump, and the Town Highway Department will dig a hole for the tree to be planted, under the able supervision of Steve Sweedler, former head gardener at PSU. Keep an eye out for the tree to be transplanted to its new happy home on our Town Common.

Our very able Plymouth Town Highway Department continued to prepare the hole for the new tree with their massive wheeled backhoe. None of the remaining roots from the stump grinding could resist



being removed and a perfect hole was created for the new Montgomery Blue Spruce. When the call came, on Friday, May 6th, our volunteer crew set out for Palmer Kolb's Shin-Boku Nursery in Wentworth.



We were overwhelmed by the Japanese gardens at the Nursery, with their delicately pruned dwarf trees and the amazing display of traditional Japanese tree trimming set in a stroll garden among stone carvings and bridges. We recommend that you take a trip to the Nursery at 180 Beech Hill Road, Wentworth, where you are welcome to take it all in.

Palmer had used his giant tree spade to dig and ball the 17' tree, which he gently picked up with straps and placed on our trailer for the trip to town. Tree tarped down, we were quite a sight down route 25. Once in town, surrounded by traffic cones, we used Rand's Skid Steer to lift the heavy object and place it in the hole. After some straightening, the now-expanded crew removed the wire and burlap and added dirt and humus around the roots. 20 gallons of water, and we were happy to stand back to admire the new addition to our Common.



With luck, this tree will serve us well for many years to come, and remind us that good results often require good planning, expertise, hard work, a spirit of giving, and persistence.

Thank you to the people of the former Main Street Plymouth Inc, Plymouth's Parks and Rec and Highway Departments, Palmer Kolb of Shin-Boku Nursery, Rand's Rentals, Pemi Tree Works, Steve Sweedler, Brian Blasey, JB Currell, and Alex Ray.