

**City of Essex Junction
Tree Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting
March 19, 2024**

Members Present: Nick Meyer, Nicole Klett, Warren Spinner, Max Seaton

In attendance virtually: Steve Rivard and Rich Boyers

Guest: Leslie Goldring

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm by Nick, second by Warren.

II. Additions or Amendments to Agenda

No additions

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the February 2024 meeting minutes was made by Warren, second by Nick.

IV. Tree Planting 2024

Warren updated the group on 23 trees that are coming from BOB nursery. He is looking at LaVoie, Cascade Park, replacing one on Mansfield and working on other spots. Two contractors that we are entertaining to plant the trees after looking at the proposals. Thirteen spots remaining. Losing 38 trees due to EAB which Public Works has already started on.

Next year we could be planting 18 from the grant in addition to what is available from the BOB nursery.

V. UCF Emerald Ash Borer Grant

Warren reports the first meeting in April with Vermont Forest and Parks with Rick to get the grant folks familiarized with TAC and what we are doing. Another meeting will be a walk around the neighborhoods where the grant trees will be planted.

VI. Maple Street Park Tree Walk Improvements

Nicole was contacted by Brian Japp of CTE Forestry. He is interested in collaborating with having his students do a project for his Tree ID section. They could look at the walk and offer suggestions. Make signs from species of trees on the walk and more.

TAC will meet in June/Summer and walk the park.

Arbor Day or June as Tree Walk 2025 as target.

Aspects of this project needing attention are:

1. Budget for project
2. New vision of walk
3. Outdoor sign design and creation
4. Signs on trees and purchasing-Brian Japp and CTE may help
5. QR codes on main map and trees
6. The information to be accessed through the PR codes/websites
7. New printed maps
8. Audio version
9. Miscellaneous

VII. Arbor Day

Nick is in contact with Fleming's principal and has 3 teams that are interested in helping with Arbor Day. Will aim for the first Friday in May or so. Need to decide on the location of planting there. Hoping students can research about trees and climate change. Steve will be happy to help.

VIII. Tree Training Workshop PR

Would like to get the public interested in this training workshop on 4/10/24 at 6 pm on 645 Pine Street. Warren and Nick will attend. Would like to get Ashley to have it on the City website tree page, Essex Reporter, etc once we have official PR from BOB.

TAC would like to have more outreach on FB, FPF, webpage, Essex Reporter in general. Will discuss our plans with Ashley.

IX. Development Applications

17 Park St-continuation of building design (Old Domino's) similar to building with Boxcar Bakery that will have parking as well. They have submitted a final plan, waiting on hearing. Warren has met with Jen and the requirement for trees in front will be met. TAC prefers Silva Cells.

8 RR-next to Essex Agency, narrow structure with landscape with plans for a fire pit and bbq for residents.

Application coming in April and we have not heard about our comments/concerns. Hope to review again.

229 Pearl St -with a project with a good landscape design and got approval for it. But it has changed hands and the design is likely to be different.

Another one on Pearl St down from Wendy's that has gone quiet after comments.

A couple of other smaller ones with duplex to a triplex, development code says they have to put a tree in. Question of composition if they can't plant.

X. Other Business

Next Wednesday, the trustees would like to hear what TAC has done in 2023 will go in the minutes. Nick will attend. He and Warren will meet to go over details to share. At some point we are wondering when/where to address Stevens Park and its future and our hope to keep it a greenspace.

Rich reports that TAC wants to plant at Cascade Park in honor of Max's daughter and Warren has selected a tree from BOB nursery called 'Celebration' Maple. Max can get back to us when he would like to plant so that family can be involved.

Pocket Park is on hold for now.

XI. Date for Next Meeting

The Committee will meet on April 16, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Warren made a motion to adjourn at 5:32 pm, 2nd by Nick.

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2024 TAC Calendar

Nicole put a [folder](#) together to capture info for PSAs.

Will aim for a Tree [planting article](#)

January -Planning Calendar and setting up folder-complete
February -Public Education around Tree Work/Trimming (Winter is the time to reach out to arborist)-incomplete
March -Public Education around Thinking about planting a tree (So, you want to plant a tree)
April - Tree Planting 5/4 at BOB
May -VT Arbor Day @ named school–Mulching, etc.
June -Tree Walk/????
July -Public Education around Tree Planting/Maintenance/Watering
August -Advertise Tree Contest
September -Form Submission for Tree Contest open after Labor Day

October -Judging and Announcement of Tree Contest Winner
November -Public Education around Trees in Fall (Best Handling of Leaves, etc)
December -Public Education around Tree Decorating/Tradition of Cutting down Christmas Tree