

**City of Essex Junction
Tree Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting
March 27, 2025**

Members Present: Nick Meyer, Leslie Goldring, Warren Spinner, Max Seaton, Rich Boyers

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 by Nick.

2. Additions to the Agenda

Warren shared that Essex Junction received notification of their Tree City USA designation for the ninth year. Committee members discussed who would like to attend the award presentation at the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Conference on May 29th.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve February meeting minutes was made by Warren, second by Rich.

3. Tree Planting 2025

Warren provided an update. Grant was awarded to Save a Tree to plant 18 trees to replace ash trees. Nine trees were pulled out of the Branch Out Burlington (BOB) Nursery in the fall. An additional 26 trees will be pulled this spring, 17 to 18 of which will be planted via a contract. Three more trees will be planted for Arbor Day, one at Fleming, one at Hiawatha, and one at the Brownell Library. New trees to be planted at the nursery will arrive April 25th.

4. Volunteer Dates

Nick shared upcoming volunteer opportunities. Digging of trees at the nursery is tentatively planned for April 19th. BOB's "dip and bag" day is April 25th, and BOB's tree planting nursery day event is on May 3rd.

5. Arbor Day

Nick shared the plans for Arbor Day this year with the plantings at Fleming at Hiawatha on May 2nd and a potential date of May 7th at Brownell Library. Warren considered how to address the more mature ash trees at Hiawatha and proposed future plantings could be interspersed between the ash trees.

6. Proposed Front Porch Forum Articles for Spring

Nick indicated that he plans to submit an article on pruning to FPF. Additional possibilities include an article on "right tree, right place" for April and one on avoiding volcano mulching for May.

7. 1 Main Street Update

Nick shared that Essex Junction did not receive the grant to make infrastructure improvement to support the planting of a tree at 1 Main Street. The City plans to move forward with adding shade sails, paving and benches with trellises to the site.

8. Tree Walks

Leslie provided an update on the Maple Street Park Tree Walk. She and Warren arranged for a site visit on April 2nd. The committee will have Steve follow up regarding a potential tree walk event at St. Michael's College and determine whether it is doable this year.

9. Other Items

Nick shared that he has been speaking with Regina regarding the issue of tree planting on private property, and it was determined that the policy is outdated. The older policy stipulated that planting should be within the Five Corners core area. Moving forward, plantings on private property can be approved by Regina, and they can extend beyond the core.

Nick provided an update on the Blackstone development behind the old Flanders building. He shared that Community Development wanted the Tree Advisory Committee to comment on the landscape plan.

The committee discussed not meeting in May, as we will be gathering for some volunteer days.

Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5:45.