

**Village of Essex Junction
Tree Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting
December 20, 2022**

Members Present: Nick Meyer, Nicole Klett, Warren Spinner, Steve Rivard, Rich Boyers

Additional Attendees: Max Seaton and Ashley Snellenberer, Essex Junction Communications & Strategic Initiatives Director

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 by Nick.

II. Additions or Amendments to Agenda

No additions or amendments.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the November 15 meeting minutes was made by Warren, 2nd by Nick.

IV. Opportunities for Public Outreach

Nick asked Ashley Snellenberer how she might be able to support the Tree Committee work. Nick shared some of the potential community engagement activities such as PSAs and a tree contest. Ashley conveyed her experience with graphic design and writing. Nicole said that it would be helpful to have both long and short forms of communication. Ashley shared that she would be able to help with the Tree Committee page on the city website. Warren spoke about the Junction's Tree City USA status and indicated that this would be a good thing to promote. Nicole suggested the committee develop a schedule of monthly communications Nicole also asked about how the committee can engage a younger demographic. Would Instagram be an effective tool? What is the communication with the school district? Ashley shared her experience with communication in a school district setting. Rich shared with Ashley the committee's idea for a tree contest in the fall.

Ashley indicated that she has experience as a grant writer. Warren shared that there would be significant dollars coming down the pike through Urban Forestry grants. This is stimulus money focused on climate action.

V. Planting 2023 and Nursery Update

No updates related to the nursery. Warren indicated that the bid is out for the Crescent Connector. Nick spoke about Arbor Day and suggested that we reach out to Hiawatha this year.

VI. Update 1 Main Street Pocket Park

Nick updated the committee on the status of the pocket park. The landscape architect spoke to the trustees and indicated that the cost of the project has gone up significantly. The likely plan is to phase the park over several years.

VII. Date for Next Meeting

The Committee will meet on Monday, January 16th at 5:00.

Adjournment

Nick made a motion to adjourn at 6:15, 2nd Rich.