

**City of Essex Junction
Tree Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting
May 16, 2023**

Members Present: Nick Meyer, Nicole Klett, Warren Spinner, Steve Rivard
Also present: Max Seaton

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm by Nicole, second by Nick.

II. Additions or Amendments to Agenda

No additions or amendments.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the April 18, 2023 meeting minutes was made by Warren, 2nd by Steve.

IV. Planting 2023 Committee Involvement

37 trees as designated for around Essex Junction were planted successfully with Warren and Nick and Steve and helpers from the city's Public Works. Max wondered if the neighborhood at Lavoie Dr knew about the tree work being done and Warren mentioned speaking with a neighborhood rep and that there is an awareness of what is happening with the Ash trees. Also, Warren mentioned looking for new areas to consider for next year's planting including Fairview, Summit St, etc.

In June, V.J. 's crew should be offered a thank you in the form of a meal like pizza for helping with our tree planting. The committee agreed and was reminded by Steve.

V. Arbor Day Celebration-Hiawatha

Successful planting in collaboration with Hiawatha and a presentation in the classroom was done about the value of trees. Steve, Warren and Nick discussed pictures taken on the planting day and getting permission to use them for the website and Tree City Application for next year. Warren and Steve and Nick all helped out with planting. Nine kids in the club and third grade classes were involved.

VI. Tree Historic Walk-PR

Warren has been working on plans for the walk on June 3rd. The City of Essex Junction Tree and Historical Tree Walk will be from 10 am-12 noon. He would like handouts made for the tour, at least 30. Need to get the PR that Margaret helped with forwarded to Ashley and also send to outlets through Front Porch Forum and Facebook and The Essex Reporter. Rain or shine the Walk will start at the train station. Steve will put up signs.

Would be nice to think of future tree walks that are self-guided with maps and tree markers. Nicole will ask Ashley specifically about QR code for the Maple Street Tree walk for a map and/or info on specific tree placards.

VII. May 6 Nursery Planting-PR

BOB May 6th Nursery planting at the UVM Hort Farm was a success. We had a turnout from TAC with a local volunteer and planted future trees for the city. Nick turned pictures into the Essex Reporter and there was PR on it.

VIII. Monthly PSAs

Tree walk for May. "So you want to plant a tree PSA" for June. See calendar below.

IX. Planting/Work Days

First Tuesday beginning in June 5:30-7:30 pm, work in the nursery once a month with pizza afterwards hosted by BOB all through the summer. Nick, Steve and Warren have shared in the mowing and weeding, and other maintenance in the nursery.

Work parties in summer for the Junction brought up by Nick and Warren would like to do West St and Hiawatha down towards the community garden as well as Old Colchester Rd adjacent to the parking lots from the high school with weeding and mulching. Looking at July dates.

X. Other Business

Steve and Warren and Nick spoke about the TAC committee budget and whether projects for the QR coding of maps and tree info could be covered. Also spoke of needing to review our budget and look into what is being allocated.

Steve is re-submitting for another term. Max is also interested in an official seat.

XI. Date for Next Meeting

The Committee will meet on July 18th at 5:00 p.m. as members will be assisting with the Tree Walk in June.

Adjournment

Nick made a motion to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. 2nd Warren, 3rd by Nicole.

January -Planning Calendar
February -Public Education around Tree Work/Trimming (Winter is the time to reach out to arborist)-HOLD for 2024
March -Public Education around Thinking about planting a tree?
April - Potential Tree Keeper Training/Dip and Bag 28th and Tree Sale 29th/National Arbor Day 28th
May -Tree Planting 6th/VT Arbor Day 5th/Hiawatha

June-Tree Walk 3rd

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