

VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2014 AT 5:30 PM
LINCOLN HALL MEETING ROOM
AGENDA

- Minutes Review;
- Continue Work on Tree Management Plan;
- Discuss FYE16 Budget;
- Discuss Potential Public Works Consolidation, and its Impact on the Tree Management Plan;
- Discuss Future Planting Initiatives;
- Public Input.

MINUTES SUBJECT TO CORRECTION BY THE ESSEX JUNCTION TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. CHANGES, IF ANY, WILL BE RECORDED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE.

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
DECEMBER 16, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nick Meyer, Warren Spinner, Rich Boyers, Paula DeMichele, Woody Martel

ADMINISTRATION: Darby Mayville, Community Relations and Economic Development Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Nick.

2. ADDITIONS OR AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Nick asked to add a discussion on publicity regarding storm damaged trees to the agenda. All agreed.

3. MINUTES REVIEW

Nick asked that the following phrase be removed from the November minutes: "Nick suggested starting plantings late winter/early spring of 2015."

MOTION by Warren, SECOND by Rich, to approve the November minutes, with changes. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

4. PUBLICITY REGARDING STORM DAMAGED TREES

Nick said that he had noticed that many trees were damaged by the recent storm, and thought that now would be a good time to get some information on tree care on Front Porch Forum. Warren noted that many of the trees that are low hanging are not damaged, and will spring back up as soon as the snow melts.

The committee also discussed tree damage at the Tree Farm area.

5. FYE16 BUDGET

Nick said that he spoke with Public Works Superintendent Rick Jones, who informed him that he had requested another \$10,000 for tree care, planting, and public education in the FYE16 budget. This was presented to the Trustees at budget day last week, and they did not voice any objections.

The committee will work on allocating these funds to specific purposes at their next meeting. Nick suggested that the group brainstorm planting locations at this time.

Rich asked if any pruning priority locations have been noted? Nick said that the Drury Drive and Village Center areas both have trees that are badly in need of pruning.

6. DISCUSS POTENTIAL PUBLIC WORKS CONSOLIDATION, AND ITS IMPACT ON THE TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN

All agreed that it was difficult to know what would happen should this change go through. Nick informed the committee that the Village contracts out engineering services, while the town does most of this work in house.

Paula asked if this would be something that the citizens would vote on. Nick told her that it would be voted on at Town meeting.

Warren noted that he was not aware of any tree inventory or management work going on in the Town. He wondered if this committee would be expected to do the same work that they had been doing for the Village in the Town if consolidation was to take place.

The committee came up with the following questions about this issue, which will be submitted to Rick Jones:

- Does the Town have an active Tree Warden?
- Who manages Town public vegetation?
- Does the Town have a Tree Policy in place?
- What overall impact do you think consolidation will have on this committee?

7. TREE MANGEMENT PLAN

The Committee completed their edits on this document. It will now be sent to the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry staff for their input.

8. DISCUSS FUTURE PLANTING INITIATIVES

This was tabled until the January meeting. Hopefully, the tree inventory software will be updated at this time, which will make this project easier.

Woody asked how the inventory was done. Nick told him that it was completed over two summers by UVM students.

9. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

10. MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting

- January 20th at 5:30 PM

Agenda Items

- TBD

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by WARREN, SECOND by RICH, to adjourn the meeting. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Darby Mayville