

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY JANUARY 20, 2014 AT 5:30 PM
LINCOLN HALL MEETING ROOM
AGENDA**

- Minutes Review;
- Planting/Pruning Plan;
- FYE16 Budget Planning;
- 2015 Goals;
- 2015 Calendar;
- 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
JANUARY 20, 2015**

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

ADMINISTRATION: Darby Mayville, Community Relations and Economic Development Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Nick.

2. ADDITIONS OR AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Nick asked to include discussion of the Tree Management Plan to the agenda. All agreed.

3. MINUTES REVIEW

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

4. PLANTING/PRUNING PLAN & FYE 16 BUDGET PLANNING

Nick said that this is important to think now about due to the fact that plantings will most likely take place four or five months from now. He directed the committee's attention to the tree inventory. There are 349 vacancies noted, however only 16 of these are on public land. He said that he was not sure how this was determined, as he felt that there were some important vacancies that were not included.

Warren said that the committee needs to get a better idea of what a good public planting location would look like. The right-of-ways on each street has to be checked, and it would be helpful for the committee to do a walk around the Village at some point to revise these vacancy locations.

Nick agreed that this is a good idea. He asked the committee if they still wanted to focus on plantings in the downtown area, or if they wanted to broaden their reach? He noted that permission of the property owner is needed to plant on private property, and that it may also require Trustee approval.

Rich suggested coming up with a multi-year plan, where the committee would focus on planting in specific areas each year.

Warren said that School Street would be a good planting location, due to the fact that the roadway had recently been re-done. He also reminded everyone that Pearl Street would be getting new sidewalks soon, and that this could affect future plantings.

Nick said that he believed that the bike lanes on Pearl Street would be extended, which would cut into the greenbelt.

Warren asked if the committee had a specific number of trees that they hoped to plant next year?

Nick said that the committee had a budget of \$10,000, and that this could be divided in any way between planting and tree care. He estimated that roughly \$3,000 needed to be spent on pruning. This would leave \$7,000 for planting, which would equal roughly fifteen trees. He noted his desire to plant in the major corridors so that the plantings could get the most public visibility.

Warren said that Public Works Superintendent Rick Jones got a lot of complements from the public about the recent tree pruning. He mentioned that Drury Drive needs to be pruned, as well as several areas on Pearl Street. He and Rick will be doing a drive around the Village in the coming weeks so that they can prioritize pruning locations. He added that he thought that pruning should be our primary goal when looking at how to spend the money, as we should take care of what we have before planting more trees.

Darby said that she would check into state grants that may help to defer some of this cost.

Rich suggested using half the funds for planting, and half for tree care.

Nick asked if it would be possible to do some of the planting in the fall?

Warren said that this was really not the best time, due to the higher chances for snow.

Rich suggested doing a walk through the Village at the next meeting to identify specific planting locations.

Warren said that this would work, as he does not usually select trees until March.

Nick said that he would speak with Development Director Robin Pierce to determine if there are any upcoming infrastructure improvements that the committee should be aware of.

Warren mentioned that he had not seen a landscaping plan for the Crescent Connector, and that the committee should have a chance to look at this.

Darby said that she would ask Robin to send them a copy.

Rich asked if pruning always had to go out to bid?

Warren said that it depended on the price of the job, and that he would ask Rick for clarification on the specifics of this.

Warren noted that there are separate funds for emergency tree removal, separate from the committee's budget.

Nick mentioned that letters would be sent out by Public Works to landowners whose trees had fallen in the Village right-of-way in recent storms.

The committee also reviewed the new Atlas tree mapping tool recently developed by the state of Vermont. They hope that the program will be improved to include planting and care history for each tree.

5. 2015 GOALS & CALANDAR

Nick told the committee that he hoped that they could discuss what they hoped to accomplish in the upcoming year, and when they would like to do these things. He stated that one of his main goals was to have the committee take more of an active role in Planning Commission activities, as well as continuing the public engagement that has worked well in previous years.

Warren said that the Arbor Day plantings have always ben inexpensive and relatively easy.

Nick suggested having a planting at a different school than last year, or having more than one planting at multiple Village schools.

Rich suggested teaming up with EJRP, as they are very good at event publicity.

Warren suggested having a tree planting as a part of the Little League parade.

Woody offered to connect with the Hiawatha principal, as he knew him from when his sons were in school. He also offered to connect with ADL.

Warren said that he would provide Woody with additional event information for him to give to the principals of each school.

Rich asked if the cost of the tree for Arbor Day would come out of the committee's budget?

Warren said that it would, unless we are able to get a donated tree.

Nick asked the committee if there was interest in holding another pruning workshop?

Warren said that he hoped to do this next workshop outside, and do an interactive pruning demonstration.

Rich suggested the possibility of holding the event at Maple Street Park, or in conjunction with EJRP.

Warren said that he could also bring tree samples inside if it would not be possible to hold the event outside. He suggested holding the workshop in June, but recommended holding an even in the fall as well. He said that fall is a good time to do a workshop on container gardening.

Nick also said that it may be possible to get someone from the Urban & Community Forestry program if Warren is not able to lead the workshop.

Rich suggested contacting the Bonsai Society to conduct a workshop as well.

Warren suggested that the committee also give out tree care information at the Farmer's Market.

6. TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Nick informed the committee that they had received their edits on the Management Plan from the Urban & Community Forestry program. He recommended that all committee members read over their edits prior to the next meeting.

7. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

8. MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting

- February 17th at 5:30 PM

Agenda Items

- TBD

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by WARREN, SECOND by RICH, to adjourn the meeting. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Darby Mayville