

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
FEBRUARY 17, 2015**

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

ADMINISTRATION: Darby Mayville, Community Relations and Economic Development Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT: Mary Jo Engel

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM by Nick.

2. ADDITIONS OR AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Nick asked to include discussion on the upcoming landscaping at the new construction project at 4 Pearl Street to the agenda. All agreed.

He also mentioned that he recently attended a meeting of the Essex Conservation Committee and that they are interested in future collaboration.

3. MINUTES REVIEW

This was tabled until the March meeting.

4. 4 PEARL STREET

Warren said that he had been speaking to Greg Rabideau, who is the project developer. In order for the project to progress, a landscape plan must be developed. He said that Greg seems very willing to cooperate. Greg has hired Mike Lawrence, an Essex architect, to work on the landscaping for this project. Warren, Nick, Public Works Superintendent Rick Jones, and Development Director Robin Pierce met with the two men to discuss the project.

Some ideas include:

- Matching existing tree grates.
- Silva cells.
- Pervious pavers.
- Planting 6 trees on Park Street, and 6 along Pearl Street.

Warren mentioned that he recommended that the engineers talk to VTrans to ensure that any plantings are compatible with existing signage. He also noted that 2% of the total project cost must go to landscaping and hardscaping. It will be a focal point to the project.

Warren said that deeproot.com would be an excellent resource if the developer was interested in silva cells. He also added that he believe that any plantings at this property will be top notch.

Warren added that nothing is set in stone, and that there is time to tweak everything. Nick added that the trees coming down at this building were really a lightning rod for this project, and that the developers are very interested in planting trees and other vegetation to improve the appearance of this area.

Rich asked if there would be room for planting in the plaza area?

Warren said that this would mostly be hardscape, as it would be a small area.

Rich asked if there would be a caliper requirement for plantings?

Warren suggested 2.5-3 inch plantings.

Paula asked when the plan needed to be formally submitted?

Warren said that it will need to be submitted before the developer does any more work than just tear the building down.

Rich added that trees and vegetation were mentioned quite a bit the recent Design Five Corners workshop.

5. PLANTING PLAN

Nick mentioned that the committee had done a walk of the Village core last month. He is currently working on a spreadsheet to show optimal planting locations. He will work with Darby to send out letters to the owners of these properties to see if any of them are interested in having a tree planted on their property.

Rick said that he thought that Main Street was a good area to focus on. Nick informed that committee that there are thirteen identified locations for planting in this area.

6. PRUNING PLAN

Nothing to report.

7. ARBOR DAY UPDATE

Woody spoke to the principals at both ADL and Hiawatha, and both are interested in having their schools participate. ADL requested that they receive a red maple if possible, and said that it would be planted as a gift to the school from the 8th grade class.

Rich asked if the committee's budget would be paying for these trees?

Nick said that he was not sure, but that he did not think that it would be well-received for the Village to be paying for trees planted on school property.

Rich suggested seeing if it would be possible to get a tree donated from a local nursery. Warren suggested that there may be grant funds for the state Urban & Community Forestry program that could be used for this purpose.

Woody will work with the schools to find a date that works well with them.

8. TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

The following changes were made to the management plan:

- Definitions were added to the executive summary;
- The Vermont Tree Selection Guide was referenced instead of the Land Development Code;
- The links to both the Tree Advisory Committee website, and the Agency of Natural Resources Atlas tool will be added to the document.

Warren mentioned that the committee should think of developing an invasive plan at some point. Mary Jo said that it would be helpful for Public Works to have some training on the issue. Warren said that he had some informational posters that he could give to them. He also added that there are some neighborhoods in Essex Junction that are predominately ash trees, and that funds for treating emerald ash borer should be added into future budgets.

Paula asked if there was any chemical treatment that was effective against emerald ash borer?

Warren said that there was an injectable treatment that worked well, however it needs to be repeated ever three years. He noted that emerald ash borer is already in all of our surrounding states and provinces.

Darby said that she would make these edits, and send around the text version to the committee. Once she received their acceptance of the documents, she would add pictures and figures back in.

9. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

10. MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting

- March 17th 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 7:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Darby Mayville