

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY MARCH 17, 2015 AT 5:30 PM
LINCOLN HALL MEETING ROOM
AGENDA**

- Minutes Review;
- Management Plan Review;
- 2015 Tree Planting Planning;
- Pruning Planning;
- 2015 Caring for Canopy Grant Information;
- Arbor Day Update;
- 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
MARCH 17, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nick Meyer, Warren Spinner, Woody Martel

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 5:42 PM by Nick.

2. ADDITIONS OR AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Warren asked to add a Tree Warden Activities Update. All agreed.

3. MINUTES REVIEW

MOTION by WARREN, SECOND by WOODY, to approve the February minutes. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

The review of the January meeting minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

4. MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Last week, Darby sent out an updated Management Plan for the committee to review. She needs to add two pictures into the document and it will be complete.

Nick suggested sending the plan back to the Urban & Community Forestry Program for their review, as well as having it reviewed by Rick Jones, Public Works Superintendent. Once this has been completed, the document will be reviewed by the Village Trustees. Presenting this document to them will also be a good time for the committee to give the Trustees a general report on their activities.

Warren suggested that it would be good for the committee to review and update the plan annually.

5. 2015 TREE PLANTING PLANNING

Nick said that a letter was sent to four private landowners on Main Street, and that all of them are happy with the idea of the Village planting a street tree on their property.

Warren added that trees are selling out very quickly this year, as there is more professional landscaping than in previous years due to the fact that the economy is recovering. The committee may have to select smaller trees (2" caliper) due to a lack of availability of larger ones.

Mary Jo asked if the idea of purchasing trees through the annual Winooski Conservation District tree sale had been discussed? Nick said that many of these trees would be too small for our use.

Nick said that he would be following up with each property owner to see their site for a second time, and discuss species preferences with them.

The committee has found a total of seven desired planting locations, which include four on private property and three on the public right of way. Warren suggested seeing if any of the neighbors might be willing to water the trees that are on the public right of way near their homes. He also reminded the group that Dig Safe needed to be contacted before any plantings occur.

Nick suggested contacting FairPoint to see if they are interested in having a tree planted on their property, as it would be nice to have more trees around the Farmer's Market area.

6. PRUNING PLANNING

Warren mentioned that he had a ride along with Rick this week to discuss pruning. They are focusing on trees that are growing on private property, yet will affect the public right of way. They noted some hazardous trees as well. Warren mentioned that the Burlington, Public Works Department can remove a tree deemed to be a threat, and subsequently bill the landowner, if they were unwilling to move it on their own. In Essex Junction, the ability to bill the homeowner is not an option, and Public Works currently would need to absorb this cost.

The committee decided that the following areas are priority locations for pruning:

1. Downtown elm trees;
2. Pearl Street turnaround;
3. Drury Drive;
4. Cascade Street ash trees.

MOTION by NICK, SECOND by WARREN, to request the allocation of \$6,000 in the streetscape budget to pruning. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

Nick noted that there is also money in the Town's budget for tree care, however he believes that it is mostly for removal.

Darby said that she would check the tree budget (for both streetscape and removal) and determine if any money has been spent on removal. If not, it is hoped that some of this money can be spent on streetscape improvements.

7. 2015 CARING FOR CANOPY GRANT INFORMATION

Due to the fact that the committee would only be purchasing one tree for Hiawatha School, they decided not to pursue the mini-grant opportunity.

Mary Jo asked for clarification about the grant program, and Nick explained it to her.

Nick showed the committee members a memo written by Community Development Director Robin Pierce regarding a proposal to use the Caring for Canopy grant to partner with CTE to develop a tree nursery. After discussing the opportunity, and some of the questions that they had, the committee developed the following statement:

Upon reviewing the memo from Robin Pierce regarding the establishment of a tree nursery at CTE, the Tree Advisory Committee has many concerns. These include:

- Lack of knowledge of nursery location, logistics, maintenance plan, and continual fiduciary responsibility.
- The FYE 15 Streetscape budget is already allocation for tree care and maintenance.

The committee would support a feasibility study of this project before grant monies are leveraged.

MOTION by WOODY, SECOND by NICK to pass the above as a formal statement of the committee regarding the Caring for Canopy grant. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

8. ARBOR DAY UPDATE

Woody mentioned that he has been in discussions with both ADL and Hiawatha schools. ADL has agreed to pay up to \$200 for the purchase of a tree, and would prefer a red maple. Warren recommended an autumn blaze be planted in this area, due to its hardiness. The tree would be planted somewhere behind the school, and the date of the planting celebration has not yet been confirmed.

Hiawatha is willing to allow the committee to select an appropriate planting location. The school will be organizing the celebration on their own, and would like to hold it on May 1st so that they are able to tie it into an existing assembly. It was decided that the planting event would be held at 9:30 AM. Several committee members will try to attend.

The committee will look into the possibility of getting a donated tree for Hiawatha school. Woody will check with the school to ensure that they will be able to water the newly planted tree throughout the summer.

Mary Jo suggested creating an event template to make planning the Arbor Day celebrate easier for future years.

9. TREE WARDEN UPDATE

Warren said that he has been working with a variety of organizations, including VTrans, the Village Community Development Department, and the Vermont Division for Historical Preservation, to plan a shared use path along Pearl Street.

He noted that he had little to update the committee on regarding the construction at 4 Pearl Street. Nick said that he was unsure if a permit for construction had been issued or not.

Nick informed that committee that Annual Village Meeting was coming up on April 1st. He suggested that the committee set up an informational display between 5:30 PM-7 PM, to attract people on their way to dinner.

10. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

11. MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting

- April 21st at 5:30 PM

Agenda Items

- TBD

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by NICK, SECOND by WOODY, to adjourn the meeting. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Darby Mayville