

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2016 AT 5:30 PM
2 LINCOLN STREET
AGENDA**

- Minutes Approval;
- Maple Street Park Event Planning;
- 2016 Tree Planting: Upper Main Street and South Street Focus;
- Looking Ahead: Crescent Connector and Safety Path;
- Inventory Update;
- New Items Not on the Agenda;
- Public Input.

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 1, 2016**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nick Meyer, Rich Boyers, Woody Martel, Warren Spinner and Mary Jo Engel

ADMINISTRATION: Darby Mayville, Community Relations and Economic Development Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM by Nick.

2. MINUTES REVIEW

MOTION by Mary Jo, SECOND by RICH to approve January minutes. All in favor.

3. MAPLE STREET PARK EVENT PLANNING

The committee tentatively set the date of this event for Saturday, May 14th. Darby will talk to the Bike/Walk Advisory Committee (BWAC) to see if this date would also be acceptable for them. The BWAC had originally planned to hold their event on May 7th, however this date would not work for the majority of Tree Advisory Committee members.

Some of the ideas proposed for this event include:

- Inviting Matt Leonard, from the State of Vermont, to lead attendees in a tree walk. This walk is anticipated to last for at least one hour.
- Warren suggested holding a planting activity for children, possibly involving flowers or seedlings.
- Rich suggested holding a shorter tree walk geared towards children.
- A tree planting in Maple Street Park.

The committee discussed event timing, and the possibility of holding the tree walk and plantings at separate times. This will be reviewed once Darby checks in with the BWAC to see if they would be amenable to holding their event on May 14th.

The committee brainstormed potential sources of funding to purchase seedlings and planting items. It was agreed that Norway Spruce seedlings would be good for the area.

The following people were assigned the following tasks to complete prior to the next meeting:

- Nick: Check in with EJRP regarding Maple Street Park availability.
- Darby: Check in with BWAC regarding event date.
- Rich: Brainstorm childrens' activities.

- Warren: Reach out to Matt Leonard to see if he is available to do the tree walk.
- Mary Jo: Reach out to the CTE Forestry Program to see if any of their students are available to volunteer for the event.

All agreed that it is a good idea to put the committee's energy into this event.

4. 2016 TREE PLANTING

Nick suggested the committee consider planting additional trees in the following areas: upper Main Street, South Street, and Clems Drive. He said that most of these were front yard planting opportunities on private property.

Nick noted that one tree was removed on Clems Drive, and that the residents have requested that a new one be planted in its place.

Committee members were encouraged to walk around the Village and note areas where trees could be planted. All trees must be planted by June 30th in order to utilize the money in the budget for the current fiscal year.

5. LOOKING AHEAD: CRESCENT CONNECTOR AND SAFETY PATH

Nick mentioned that he did not believe that there was any money allocated in the Crescent Connector budget for landscaping. He thought that there was only going to be a narrow strip of greenspace along the road, and noted that it might not leave enough space for plantings.

Warren said that if there is no room for planting the idea of a rain garden could be explored.

The committee also requested an update on the landscaping with the Multi-Use Path. Darby asked them to discuss it at the next meeting, because a construction contractor will have been selected at this point.

6. INVENTORY UPDATE

Mary Jo said that Rick was going to look over the data and give her some feedback, in order for her to build a stronger template. She noted that she found and removed some repeats on the inventory. She said that she will be speaking with Elise, from the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Department, so that she can teach her how to use the GPS system for Essex Junction's urban forest.

7. NEW ITEMS/PUBLIC INPUT

Darby updated the committee on the process of gaining Tree City USA recognition, and asked all committee members to review the application and provide feedback.

Nick informed the committee that their update to the Trustees went well. The Management Plan was approved. This will allow the Planning Commission to ask the committee to comment on plans.

Warren said that all committee members should be proud of the work that they had completed in the short time since the committee was established.

Warren also suggested the possibility of applying for an additional growth award from the Arbor Day Foundation in 2017.

Nick noted the importance of getting more committee PR, and sending more articles to the Essex Reporter. Warren suggested that it would be good to do something if the Village receives Tree City USA recognition.

Warren noted that Branch Out Burlington will be holding a Tree Keeper Training in April, and that it would be a good idea for the committee to help them in promoting this.

Mary Jo showed a logo design to the committee, and received feedback on the design.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on March 1st 2016, at 5:30 PM. Agenda is TBD.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by MARY JO, SECOND by RICH to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Darby Mayville