

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017 AT 5:30 PM
LINCOLN HALL**

AGENDA

1. Minutes Review;
2. Planting 2018;
3. Land Development Code Review;
4. Review Crescent Connector & Other Public Projects for Planting Opportunities;
5. Budget Review;
6. Public Input.

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 19, 2017**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Rivard

ADMIN PRESENT: Darby Mayville, Community Relations/Economic Development Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. MINUTES REVIEW

MOTION BY MARY JO, SECOND BY NICK TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSED.

3. PLANTING 2018

Nick and Warren did a walk around the Village to visit potential planting locations. Most of these locations were on private property. They identified around 25 locations on Railroad Avenue, Lincoln Street, Central Street, Grove Street, and Educational Drive. They also plan to plant a replacement tree in front of On Tap.

Nick noted that representatives from the Federal Building had contacted the committee for their input on tree planting in their location. They plan to remove three trees that are in poor condition, and plant three new ones. The Committee plans to plant a fourth tree in the public right of way in this location. Nick suggested trying to contact Fairpoint again to see about planting a tree in front of their location on Lincoln Street.

Warren noted that it would be good to plant a new tree in front of the Essex Agency on Main Street, however it would be a good idea to wait until the final plans for the Crescent Connector are available.

Steve noted that it would be good to plant in the Nomad Coffee/Road Res Q area. The committee decided to put this idea on hold because they were unsure about future development in the area.

Some other possible planting locations include Hillcrest Road, West Hillcrest Road, and West Street. Nick and Warren will connect with Public Works Superintendent Rick Jones to review Village right of ways in all potential planting locations.

4. LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE REVIEW

The committee read through Section 719 of the Essex Junction Land Development Code (Landscape and Tree Planting Requirements). Nick noted that this section had been updated in the most recent revision of the Code. Section D was most discussed by the committee and is included below:

D. Landscaping. There shall be a sufficient amount of landscaping and screening, as may be reasonably determined by the Planning Commission, to insure protection of and enhance the quality of the project in question and adjacent properties. The landscape plan must be drawn by a landscape architect, landscape designer, or competent landscape professional, and the landscaping requirement will be a minimum of three (3) percent of the total construction cost for new construction up to \$250,000. For new construction projects above \$250,000, the landscape requirement shall be a minimum of two (2) percent of the total construction cost. In the case of construction projects above \$1,000,000, a landscape architect, licensed by the State of Vermont's Office of Professional Regulation, will be required to prepare a landscape plan. This may be waived in unusual circumstances. The Commission may permit or require improvements to the public right-of-way in part or in lieu of on-site landscaping to be used to improve the pedestrian environment including street trees, plantings, stormwater retention and pedestrian amenities. With a new use on existing development or renovation on existing property, the applicant must provide landscaping adequate to provide screening and environmental enhancement to the satisfaction of the Planning Commission.

The committee had the following questions in regards to this section:

- Is there a fund for improvements in the public right-of-way (given by developers in lieu of on-site landscaping)?
- Is there any money in this fund?
- Who controls the money in the fund?
- When was the fund started?

Darby said that she would talk to Community Development Director Robin Pierce and get answers back to the committee.

Mary Jo noted that money in this fund could possibly be used for landscaping on the Crescent Connector project.

Warren suggested that the committee work towards making a recommendation for a formal policy for the use of these funds.

Nick noted that the Planning Commission may ask the Tree Advisory Committee to review plans on private property, and that the committee should also be consulted for public projects.

The committee then looked over the landscaping plans available on the Village website for two developments on Park Street. Mary Jo said that it would be helpful to have another community visioning workshop like the Design Five Corners project in 2015.

5. REVIEW CRESCENT CONNECTOR & OTHER PUBLIC PROJECTS

Tabled until January.

6. BUDGET REVIEW

Mary Jo showed the committee the most recent monthly statement that she had received for the streetscape budget. She will be meeting with Darby and Rick to discuss how best to categorize spending.

7. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by MARY JO, SECOND by WARREN to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: Darby Mayville