

VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2019
5:30 P.M.

1. Welcome;
2. Minutes Review;
2. 2019 Tree Planting;
3. BOB nursery Update and Planting 2020;
- 4.EAB Publicity, Fall Tree Removal, Planting 2020;
- 5.9-11 Park St Application and Enforcement;
6. Budget Review;
7. Adjourn.

**Village of Essex Junction
Tree Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting
August 20, 2019**

Members Present: Nick Meyer, Mary Jo Engel, Warren Spinner, Rich Boyers, Tim Kemerer, Steve Rivard

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 by Nick

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve June meeting minutes was made by Mary Jo, second by Warren.

3. 2019 Tree Planting Update

Nick shared that 30 trees were planted for the 2019 season. The most recent plantings were on the recreational path along the railroad tracks. Tim questioned whether dead trees were removed along this path. Rich voiced his concerns about general maintenance for this area.

4. Burlington Tree Nursery Update

Nick and Steve discussed the volunteer support at the Tree Nursery. Nick shared that the Tree Advisory Committee article linked on the Village site about the collaboration with Branch Out Burlington resulted in some volunteer inquiries and he suggested that we pursue having it published in the Essex Reporter to reach a wider audience. Nick questioned whether we could begin pulling trees from the nursery for street planting for next season. Warren thought it would be better to wait another year for the trees to have more growth. However, he did think there were some crabapples that could potentially be planted. Mary Jo asked about ultimately getting more space at the nursery so the village could pull about 30 trees per year that are mature enough for street tree planting. The committee discussed whether these trees would be designated for general street tree planting or specifically for ash tree replacement. Tim suggested that half could go to ash tree replacements. With the savings there would be more opportunity to plant more street trees.

5. Emerald Ash Borer Publicity, Tree Removal and 2020 Planting

Nick shared that based on the EAB plan, we need to begin ash tree removal and replacement. Warren outlined the potential costs of removal, stump grinding and replacement. Based on the costs and budget it was determined that the Village could begin with 8 trees. Rich raised the issue that when the money was allocated to deal with EAB, the pest was not in such close proximity as it is now. It has been found in South Hero and Bristol. The committee had requested \$11,000 to deal with this challenge and all committee members felt the \$5000 that were allocated is not adequate to deal with this more imminent threat to the Village tree resources. The committee agreed that the next meeting would take place in the Wilkinson

neighborhood where there are many ash trees. Nick suggested that we meet with homeowner associations to share the EAB plan.

6. 911 Park Street Application and Enforcement

Nick shared that the 911 Park Street development is suppose to be a 100% build out. Tim stated that there needs to be follow through with code enforcement to ensure that money is collected from this project and others and it is designated for other landscape plantings. Nick suggested that the committee should attend a planning commission meeting.

7. Budget

Mary Jo indicated that the \$5000 designated for EAB should have a separate budget code to distinguish it from the general tree planting budget. Warren shared that \$2500 has been sent from the new fiscal year budget for pruning services. Mary Jo suggested that while Darby is out on maternity leave, invoices should be sent to Nick.

Adjournment

Rich made a motion to adjourn at 7:20, Second by Warren.