

**VILLAGE OF ESSEX JUNCTION
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019
5:30 P.M.
LINCOLN HALL**

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of September 17, 2019;
3. Landscape Funds;
4. School Partnerships;
5. Emerald Ash Borer Schedule;
6. Nursery Update;
7. Budget Review.

**Village of Essex Junction
Tree Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting
October 15, 2019**

Members Present: Nick Meyer, Mary Jo Engel, Warren Spinner, Rich Boyers

Others Present: Diane Clemens (Essex Junction Planning Commission)

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 by Nick

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion by Nick to approve the August meeting minutes, second by Mary Jo. All in favor, motion passed.

3. Developments and Landscaping

Diane Clemens from the Planning Commission joined the meeting. Nick noted that, according to the Land Development Code, money for large projects should be set aside for landscaping. He spoke about the importance of greenspace to our community. Diane shared her opinion that enforcement has become an issue. There are a lot of directives in code but no mechanism for enforcement. Mary Jo asked who is responsible for code enforcement and stated there needs to be greater transparency. Diane suggested that money not spent on projects should not go into the general fund, but should be earmarked for landscaping. Mary Jo stated that there is no evidence that has ever been done. Warren asked whether or not any money has ever been captured. If not, where is it going? Diane suggested that, with increased collaboration with the Town, now might be a good time to review the language of the code. Warren outlined the process in Burlington. There is clear language and clarity about who is responsible. Rich asked about why as an advisory committee we cannot serve in an advisory capacity on new developments. Mary Jo noted that we are taking a hit to the operating budget.

4. Project with Teacher

Nick shared that a teacher at Summit wants to collaborate on a year-long project culminating with Arbor Day. Nick shared ideas about students doing some tree labeling and weeding in the spring. Rich suggested that there might be an opportunity to work with students on something like the "awesome tree contest" that takes place in Burlington.

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

Warren discussed to how the committee plans to move forward with EAB plan. The committee will begin with fewer removals and interplant new trees between existing ashes. The plantings would begin on Lavoie Drive, Wilkinson Drive, and Hayden Street. Warren looked at properties where we can interplant. There is currently a budget of \$5,000 for removal and planting. Four trees will be removed: one on Hayden Street, one on Wilkinson Drive, and two on Lavoie Drive.

6. Tree Order

Warren indicated that an order was made with Branch Out Burlington for the spring - about 40 trees. Branch Out Burlington will send an invoice in April. \$1,400 will cover trees, compost, and growbags.

7. Budget

Mary Jo shared her frustration about the budget. Everything is now going into one pot. We will keep our own numbers. Mary Jo indicated that we should wait for Darby to return to help address this.

8. Adjournment

Mary Jo made a motion to adjourn at 6:55, Second by Warren. All in favor, meeting adjourned.