

**Village of Essex Junction
Tree Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting
September 22, 2020**

Members Present: Nick Meyer, Warren Spinner, Steve Rivard, Tim Kemerer, Linda Mahns, Rich Boyers

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 by Nick.

2. Emerald Ash Borer Management Grant Update

Warren updated the committee on the progress of the EAB management plan. In the Lavoie neighborhood, four trees were removed and four trees were planted. There are 12 sites identified among Hayden, Wilkinson and Tyler for intermittent plantings. No trees will be removed. The funds for these trees will be coming out of the EAB grant. Nick discussed the plan for spring 2021 and the need to begin meeting with homeowners. The plan is to offer a small palette of trees. The intent is to plant shade trees and create a canopy similar to what currently exists. Warren also discussed the challenge of locating available trees from nurseries due to Covid. The grant requires the planting of 2 to 2 1/2 caliper trees. If they are not available, the hope is that the state will be flexible.

3. Budget

Nick shared that the \$5000 allocated for EAB was cut to \$2500. These funds need to be used by June 30th. The \$10,000 allocated for planting, maintenance and removal might be impacted by some problematic trees. In addition, the Park Street School site now falls on the Village and funds might be needed for this as well.

4. Planting in the Downtown Core

The committee discussed the importance of preserving and enhancing the greenscape of the downtown core. The committee feels it is critical that the downtown is treated differently. A new land development code must have strong language and there must be clear enforcement. Nick shared with the committee what he knew about the pocket park in front of Firebird Cafe.

5. Tree Nursery Update

Warren indicated that he tagged six trees of 1 1/4 caliper that can be pulled for planting. He will order ten trees to replace the trees that are being removed. These funds will be taken from the \$2500 allocated for EAB.

Adjournment

Rich made a motion to adjourn at 6:40, Second by Steve.