

**Village of Essex Junction
Tree Advisory Committee
December 1, 2020
Minutes**

In attendance: Nick Meyer, Rich Boyers, Sheridan Johnson, Steve Rivard, Tim Kemerer, Warren Spinner, and Linda Mahns

1. Welcome, additions to the agenda

No additions to the agenda. Meeting began at 5:34 pm.

2. Minutes of 9/22/20

Warren made a motion to accept the minutes. Steven seconded. All approved.

3. EAB grant and 2021 planting

Warren spoke about beginning the planting in the spring – a total of 16 trees that will be planted. Removal of trees are a part of the grant. 18 Wilkinson – removed 3 ash trees and will replace one. Started that conversation last fall but because of Covid, we had to put that on hold. Tree down on Tyler and will be replaced.

4. General planting 2021 Mansfield, Maple St, Brickyard, others?

Nick spoke about the budget saying there is close to 7k for general planting in 2021. Warren spoke about additional addresses: Several locations on West St as a possibility, although is asking for other possible locations. Tim asked if there were places on any of the Main roads that may have places to plant like ADL? PD? Some discussion went around for other possible locations for plantings. The committee determined these addresses for potential plantings that will likely use the budget funds: Mansfield Rd, Maple St, Brickyard, Old Colchester Rd and _____

5. New member recruitment

Sheridan Johnson came to the meeting today to see about becoming a new member of the Tree Advisory Committee. She may have a change in where she lives possibly in a year or two so asked if that was okay and wants to have some hands-on activities once we are able to get back outside. Nick offered for Sheridan to send a letter of interest to Linda or to use the website posting here: <https://essexvt.bamboohr.com/jobs/view.php?id=34&source=other> to apply.

6. Budget

Nick spoke about tracking the budget and the difficulties about expenses and how they are posted so is working with Rick Jones to try and correct that. Right now, it looks as though monies weren't spent yet but the TAC actually has. Nick will reach out to Evan and Sarah to let them know that funds are allocated for the spring despite it looking otherwise. The email will detail what has been used and what needs to stay put for the spring planting allocations.

7. Landscape plan for Crescent Connector and 5-Corners Park

Nick gave an update on this landscape plan and potential plantings for this plan. Looking for possible funds that may be available to assist with this. Warren gave a comment on the pdfs of the crescent connector – placeholding for the trees was done well. Warren is unsure if all those

trees will be able to get planted, but having the locations as placeholders is a good plan. Tree species were added but they may not be the trees that the TAC would recommend. The ball is in our court to adjust and plan for the best plantings for the plan. Warren plans on getting in touch with the landscape architect team to join efforts for this plan.

5 Corners Park: This was brought up at a Trustees meeting and some discussion with Robin ensued as well. Quite a few trees want to be planted but the soil needs to be developed/increased more for adequate planting. Would like to meet with Robin again to ascertain how many trees are actually wanting to be planted. Tim spoke about possibly planting less in order to accommodate the soil that was currently available now for adequate planting. The TAC would like to have some more input into these projects and will connect with Robin to be more active/proactive for this project.

8. Landscape fund

Tim asked how much do we think we should add for the planning commission that meets on 12/18? Tim will write up a preliminary document and will review with a Village staff to ensure the process is aligned with procedures. After that, Tim will send out to others to review.

9. Tree City USA-Arbor Day

Summit St school planting that was shut down due to Covid. Nick reached out to the school to see if they may want to join in the activity. Tree City USA requires documentation for events and it would be fun to do with the school kids. Warren, Nick, and Linda can work together to set up the new grant funding for this which needs to be submitted some time in January or February.

10. Adjourn

Rich made a motion to adjourn. Warren seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:23 pm