

Village of Essex Junction
Tree Advisory Committee
February 16, 2021
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 5:08 pm.

2. Minutes of 12/1/20

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

3. EAB grant and 2021 planting - ash insecticide treatment for ADL ash trees?

Warren gave an update on the grant: 16 locations – 2 on Hayden St, 5 on Wilkerson Dr, 5 on Tyler Drive, and 4 on Lavoie. 22 trees have been ordered from New England Nursery sale. Remaining trees from that order can go with normal tree planting schedule. Working with contractors (Adam Becker ABC Tree Care who did some planting for Village parks and rec recently – is asking for more information. Have suggestions for other possible contractors. Game plan is to see if these contractors can plant these trees for us and just utilize their labor to do the planting. Nick brought up the question of the ash insecticide treatment for the ADL ash trees and gave an update on the needs for this. Warren spoke about insecticide on a tree on school property and whether or not they have to have more involvement on this. Rich asked about the potential toxins of the -cide. Warren responded saying it was pretty safe. The TAC may go to the school board or school staff to ask the question of this insecticide for those trees on school property. Cost for this treatment is approximately for \$8/diameter inch - \$167/tree roughly for about 6 or 7 trees for 1 treatment. 1 treatment every 2 years is the recommended timeline so this would have to get budgeted in. Sheridan spoke of the community building of this as well as the good intention to save the trees that are otherwise healthy.

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

Warren talked about possibly planting some 16 additional trees. Warren was talking about asking some contractors for labor to help plant. Estimates will have to happen to see when this could happen as well as how much it will cost. 6 of these trees will come out of the nursery and can be combined, possibly, with Village planting. Tim was talking about how nice it would be for a whole gathering of trees to possibly be planted together. Possibly 16 trees could be planted on Mansfield. Warren gave an update of what has been planted on Brickyard as well as the potential layout of all the trees that could occur on Mansfield. Using the nursery is a great resource for cost as well as for the planting.

5. TAC involvement with community tree planting initiative to combat climate change and offset paper use in the schools.

Nick brought up this idea to work with community and schools on this topic and see about potential cost-sharing of various projects that may come up depending on interest. Nick listed some orgs and initiatives like 350 Vermont to see about joining up forces to Back of Tree Farm

that has a lot of scrub and grassy lands. State tree farm behind the dog park that might be able to be re-forested. Warren brought up Wickham farm behind Waste Water building to see about repairing that. Indian Brook would also be good, except that it is located in the Town and not the Village. Old Ball field at Global Foundries. Nick will reach out to these various folks to see about interest and collaboration and will report back at the next TAC meeting.

6. Land Development Code

Nick attended a recent Planning Commission meeting re: Land Development Code and gave an update on the meeting. Nick asked the Planning Commission for collaboration with them to see about giving ideas or help with projects. Nick also attended a recent Trustees meeting where George spoke about the Landscape Fund and asked questions about it. Village is supposed to contribute to that fund but to date, has not. The TAC wishes to offer its expertise with the Planning Commission and asked to be a part of these projects and plans.

7. Landscape Fund

Tim gave a presentation which is added to these minutes. There are revisions and additions that may need to get applied to this presentation if it is going to be presented to the Planning Commission or Board of Trustees. A proposed process is outlined within the presentation in order to be sure this Landscaping guideline requirement is met. Warren added some key additions to add to the process that shows clear bulleted guidelines between residents and staff. TAC wishes to have oversight on this process with/for the Planning Commission and hope to present this to the Planning Commission at the next Land Development Code meetings. Sheridan asked if costs could get rolled into a bond or escrow to make this an easier process for individuals. Nick is going to talk with the Planning Commission as well as George to help with the creation of this as a strong code with the TAC assisting. Nick also wants to pull past projects that this was not included for this 2-3% Landscape fund to include in the presentation.

8. Tree City USA-Arbor Day

Warren went online to prepare this documentation for this grant application. Arbor Day was not a requirement this year due to Covid. This was submitted and is being considered. It looks good to possibly receive this grant for the 5th year. The TAC should know in about a month when Tree City completes its process. Sheridan asked if there's a way to honor Arbor Day anyway and Nick said there is a plan to do a tree walk with the school in April but are waiting to see how this pandemic plays out.

Nick will be forwarding an email from Margaret Skinner from Branch Out Burlington – link to UVM for Covid training. This is needed so that TAC members can go to the nursery to work!

9. Adjourn

March 16th at the normal time for the next TAC meeting. Steve wants to work with Nick on Summit Street. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm

Draft process for Landscape fund contributions from Village Projects

EJ TAC

Background

EJ Land Development guideline for 2% of project to be Landscaping. Allowance for contribution to Village Streetscape fund in lieu of fully hitting that target.

Multiple projects noted in Planning Commission minutes/notes where this was the case.

Only \$1000 ever collected.

No current business process or procedure for PC or Staff to follow to document and ensure \$ collection

Proposed Process

1. During EACH Planning commission review of project, determine if 2% Landscaping guideline is planned to be met.
 - a. If YES, PC continues to confirm at each review + STAFF to document in 'List of Current Projects'
(does this exist??)
2. If NO,
 - a. Project owner to attach document explaining why not meeting Landscape guideline
 - b. Project owner to request Contribution to Streetscape fund in lieu of landscaping on site
3. Document Contribution expectation as part of the project in the PC minutes
4. PC approval

Proposed Process cont'd

5. STAFF to document as Landscape fund contributing project in 'List of Current Projects' (*does this exist??*)
6. STAFF to determine official contribution amount (confirming amount if owner has proposed one). This should equal 2% of project or delta between actual Landscape spending and the 2% guideline.
7. STAFF documents amount as money owed to the village (*where?*) and documents this as contingency for issuing Occupancy permit (*where?*)
8. STAFF issues an invoice to the project owner for the contribution amount (which includes the statement of contingency for the O.P.)



Proposed Process cont'd

9. At next PC review of project,
 - a. PC Confirms STAFF has completed steps 5-8
 - b. PC documents contribution amount in minutes from step 6.
10. At final approval PC confirms with STAFF and project owner that contribution has been completed.
 - a. If not complete, documents in minutes Project owner's commitment to complete.

Not sure this fits with timing of PC reviews vs. actual construction of projects....

