

Village of Essex Junction
Tree Advisory Committee
March 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 5:37 pm.

2. Minutes of 2-16-21

Small changes were made during the meeting. Warren made a motion to accept the minutes as amended live in the meeting. Tim seconded. All approved.

3. Iris Hsing – Essex High School tree planting Project

Tabled for next month.

4. 2021 planting – ash insecticide treatment for ADL ash trees

Rich initiated a continued discussion on how to possibly address this with the school. Tim offered to reach out to Jen Wood, principal at ADL, to present this to see how to get this in motion (offering a presentation?) Also want to ask if there can be a component to bring to the students as an educational opportunity. Rich will reach out to science teachers to see about a possible educational opportunity to bring to the students.

5. Landscape Fund - Tim.

Tim made some changes that were brought up to the presentation that was presented last month. The recommendation is to reach out to the Village Planning Commission, Robin, Terry, and Marguerite, as well as Andrew Brown, Trustees President. *(Update: please also CC Greg Duggan on this email.)*

6. Land Development Code Timeline

Nick was unable to attend the most recent Planning Commission meeting but read the minutes. He is thinking it's possibly good for TAC to make their own timeline and have things ready for the Village Planning Commission. The TAC is hoping to collaborate with the Planning Commission with these development codes.

7. Tree City USA-Arbor Day Celebration

Scheduled with Summit School for a celebration and planting. Steve and Sheridan are willing to volunteer for this activity. Friday, May 7th is the date for this event. No news on the award but when that is announced, it will go to Evan Teich, Unified Manager.

8. BOB Nursery Volunteering

Steve updated the committee – Terry Bradshaw offered pruning demonstrations for apple trees, which is encouraging for this time of Covid. May 1st for tree planting – 6 trees will be planted and replacement trees will be planted. 7 trees were ordered from John Padau and 36 trees will be

planted this spring. Week of April 18th trees will be arriving to the nursery. They may prep the trees earlier for sale. Preparations will be made to have plantings ready for May 1st. More updates to come.

9. Public outreach and engagement: awesome tree contest, tree care workshop, tree walk...

Nick brought up the idea of public engagement. Wanted to get ideas for the fall. Rich gave some ideas for tree walk. Tree warden in Milton did a tree contest similar to the Awesome Tree Contest. Go out and find the largest sugar maple – find the largest tree in Milton – this seemed to be very successful. There were questions about advertising as well as details of how this was done. For a tree walk, do we do just a walk? Do we make a pamphlet? How would this work for trees that might be on/near private homes? Warren gave some ideas for this as options. Nick offered the idea of using Maple St Park as a potential for a tree walk in combination with a contest? Linda raised an idea of a photo contest – send in your favorite tree photos, which encourages getting outside and is a kind of individual “tree walk.” Discussion occurred around where to post: Winners can be printed off – framed and put around Village offices, library, etc. Rich offered to be a part of it. Linda can help with posting on the website, FPF, FB, Essex Reporter. Fall foliage time for this potential photo contest.

Next year for possible tree workshops. Nick offered tree climbing events as a potential event for when large groups can get back together. Warren had some experience with this and it was fun – it was part of the international arbor day foundation.

10. Adjourn

April 20th at the normal time for the next TAC meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm