

Village of Essex Junction
Tree Advisory Committee
April 20, 2021
Minutes

In attendance: Nick Meyer, Tim Kemerer, Steve Rivard, Warren Spinner, and Linda Mahns, Staff Representative

1. Welcome, additions to the agenda

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

2. Minutes of 3-16-21

Tabled until next month.

3. 2021 Planting

Warren gave an update. Eight trees coming from Branch Out Burlington. Nick, Steve, and Warren will be picking up the eight trees in Burlington so that they can be planted on Mansfield Ave. Expect to plant them Thursday/Friday. Memorial tree planting for Bob Pierce is also occurring this week with the TAC. Rich might be able to lend a hand on Friday. Tim is able to help as well. Setting up a time on Friday around 9:30 – meet at Nick’s house. Bring shovels!

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Grant Trees are coming to PW tomorrow between 11-1 – 22 trees are going to be delivered to EJ PW yard. Warren met with Rick Jones today to orchestrate the delivery. These will be planted on Monday 4/26 – contractor will be there and ready to plant in the morning on that day.

All trees for Village Spring Tree Planting are going to be in the works this week and next. By Wednesday of next week, all trees will be planted. Steve will take photos this week and next.

4. Landscape Fund - Tim.

Tim will make revisions to the presentation to help set a new process. Once it is done, Tim will send to Linda so she can email to Greg, Andrew, Planning Commission and Robin.

5. Land Development Code Suggestions

Nick gave an update on a recent Planning Commission meeting and the potential setbacks from the road for Land Development Code regarding greenspaces. Tim was asking about how much space is needed for trees to grow in addition to sidewalks and other spaces needed for other development. Thinking ~6 feet plus sidewalk but up for discussion. Warren spoke about his experience with Burlington – Design review is important and recommends this to be a part of the zoning board so that it can be backed up. Streetscapes to include the greenery (trees) – the recommendation ought to come from the Trustees to show that this is a value we have for Essex Junction so that Planning Commission and Zoning Board as well as Com Dev can implement these through the codes. Steve asked the question of “mixed developments” that are in the works. Transit Oriented Design section – Pearl St - 5 Corners all the way to Susie Wilson Rd has some development proposed there. Rt 15 Bike Path looks as though it is coming in. TAC is

hoping to have influence with the Planning Commission and Zoning Board and hopes to make recommendations around June.

6. 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 1:30 pm – doing 1 craft and keeping things smaller due to COVID. TAC received the award for this year. This will be the 6th Year of being in Tree City USA – Warren congratulated and thanked everyone who has participated in this.

Nick will bring a tree for planting at the school for this Arbor Day event. Warren and Steve asked to be kept in the loop. Steve will take pictures at the event. Warren might be able to give a short talk/demonstration to the classmates, if he has the time. Will do a picture with the kids and TAC for the website.

7. BOB Nursery Volunteering

For planting on Saturday, May 1st – 8 am. Warren, Steve and Tim can attend. Nick will send a refresher link for COVID. 2-3 hours will be spent planting/cleaning on this Green Up Day event.

8. Continuation of public outreach and engagement discussion: Fall favorite tree photo contest, tree care workshop, tree walk...

Nick began talking about public outreach. Need to take a walk over at Maple St Park and have signage with maps to show entryways to the park. Need pamphlets as well to use for a tree walk. Possible time of year would be summer for the tree walk.

Neighborhood walks to find favorite trees for a photo contest. Maybe Pleasant St? Mansfield? Main St? Linda can help with website postings, social media postings, graphic design for posters, etc.

9. Discussion on PSAs on Tree Care – Front Porch Forum and other sites.

Nick has been adding articles on social media. Linda will take over the posting to FPF and FB pages.

Some article topics to plan:

- An article on Planting – Right Tree, Right Place – Warren will write
- In July, Steve wants to do a post for Watering Trees
- Mid-summer Pruning article – Warren to possibly write to go along with a Pruning Seminar
- Tree walk article and seminar. May want to coordinate with Robin for his “master class” series
- Shade tree/Ornamental tree articles
- Fruit trees (Nick to write)
- Go to: VT Urban Community Forestry page for ideas and use of pamphlets/language. Listed as a resource on the TAC web page.

Tips can be added to the web page. Expand the resource as well? Possible future agenda item is to update the web page.

10. Adjourn

May 18th at 5:30 pm for the next TAC meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm