

Village of Essex Junction
Tree Advisory Committee
May 18, 2021
Minutes

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

1. Welcome, additions to the agenda

No additions to the agenda. Meeting began at 5:35 pm.

2. Minutes of 3-16-21 and 4-20-21

Minor changes were made to both sets of minutes. Tim made a motion to accept the 3-16 minutes. Warren seconded. Approved unanimously. Warren made a motion to accept the 4-20 minutes and Steve seconded. Approved unanimously.

3. 2021 Planting Summary

Warren gave an update. Eight trees came from Branch Out Burlington. 18 trees came and were planted for the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Grant Trees. A total of about 36 or 37 trees were planted in the past couple of weeks.

4. Pocket Park

Warren gave an update on this. The TAC has some issues because the planting would be done on a former gas station and it is a very small site. The soil is not good and too much plantings. The TAC went to the Trustees to see about giving advice to the Com Dev of this endeavor. Warren is the Village Tree Warden and talked about the type of trees, the number of trees, placement and how they will be planted and cared for. Warren and Nick met with Robin last Tuesday on the site to discuss options and ask questions about the layout. Warren and Nick will meet with Rick Hamlin – the engineer. Nick recommended a step-by-step process of how one tree would get picked and planted for this site. The TAC is not going to be designing this landscaping endeavor.

Tim wondered what the follow up should be for the TAC and is recommending to go back to the Trustees to give them the update. Nick said the TAC should give their best recommendation for these tree plantings for the pocket park. If the TAC has something for the reading file for any upcoming Trustees meeting, they can email Linda and cc Marguerite Ladd for inclusion in any upcoming Trustees agenda.

Nick recommends Warren's expertise to be the first person to take a crack at this design for the tree recommendations. He also recommended we spread the word on this site for interest and to get some public input. Warren was talking about the environmentally unfriendly place of this site because it is a contaminated site (old gas station.) He wondered if the engineer would offer at least 3 options for planting with cost options for this pocket park. After Nick and Warren take a crack at recommendations, they will send to the rest of the committee for review.

5. **Arbor Day Celebration**

Nick gave the summary for the Arbor Day celebration at the school and said it worked out well for this celebration.

6. **FPF articles** – Front Porch Forum and other sites.

Linda is set to take over the posting to EJ website, FPF, and FB pages. Rich stated he can write about something about a week or so from now.

Some article topics to plan:

- **Summary of what was planted this year and Arbor Day Celebration and Tree City USA.**
Steve has photos for FB page as well. Warren will send Rich a list about the tree plantings (what trees and where) and will send to Nick to review. Rich agreed to write a summary of the TAC annual planting. Nick and Warren will send info on the Tree City USA and Arbor Day Celebration so Rich can draft an article. Teaser to be linked on FPF and FB to link back to EJ website.
- An article on Planting – Right Tree, Right Place – Warren can write. Nick will also write something about planting.
- 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.

7. **BOB nursery volunteering**

Nick spoke about a possibility of having a sign like “Village Tree Advisory Committee – trees being planted.” – to get some marketing going.

Warren spoke about BOB nursery volunteer time – First Tuesday of the month around 6 pm at the horticultural farm. Branch Out Burlington website – <https://branchoutburlington.org/get-involved/burlington-community-tree-nursery/> - Nick asked about the protocol for how this operates and Warren offered that there is a sign up sheet for any person to fill out and sign in for volunteering.

8. **Schedule committee work evenings**

Typically, the summer isn't when TAC meets. Nick asked about the 3rd week in June to see if everyone still wants to meet then for a work session outdoors. Tentatively June 23rd is a possibility for a work party at 5:30 works and will be announced for where this will occur.

9. Landscape Fund - Tim.

Tim made revisions to the presentation to help set a new process and sent to Linda so she can email to Greg, Andrew, Planning Commission and Robin for review and ask them when a follow up meeting would occur to take action on this.

10. Fall favorite tree photo contest, tree care workshop, tree walk...

Nick wondered when to begin the tree photo contest and asked about September as a potential date. Rich can help with this – wishes to plan during the summer for a fall date. The TAC will begin with the tree photo contest and see what might come of it.

11. Adjourn

June 22nd at 5:30 pm for the next TAC meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm