

**Village of Essex Junction
Tree Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting
January 5, 2022
(Rescheduled from December 15, 2021)**

Members Present: Nick Meyer, Warren Spinner, Sheridan Johnson, Tim Kemerer, Steve Rivard, Rich Boyers

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 by Nick.

2. Additions or Amendments to Agenda

Nick inquired whether everyone had seen the email from Tammy Getchell regarding the meeting stipend.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve September meeting minutes was made by Warren, second by Rich.

4. LDC Review

Nick shared that he and Warren attended the Planning Commission meeting to offer suggestions regarding the re-write of the Land Development Code. They shared the Tree Committee's hope to have more input on the landscape plans of new developments. Warren offered best-practice landscaping language on such things as warranties, etc. Tim inquired whether the language regarding the requirement that a percentage of construction costs be allocated to landscaping had been clarified. Warren conveyed that the Tree Committee's thoughts had been communicated. Both Nick and Warren indicated that the Planning Commission was receptive to the Tree Committee's feedback. Nick also discussed a planned multi-unit development project off of Maple Street which includes six houses and parking lot.

5. Planned 2022 Budget

Warren shared that 32 trees are ready to be pulled from the Branch Out Burlington nursery (BOB). Seven trees from the nursery were planted this fall. In addition, Warren indicated that the Tree Committee has been working with homeowners on Hayden, Wilkinson, and Lavoie to proactively remove ash trees and replant them with other species. Nine trees have been removed and 8 will be replanted this spring.

Currently, there is \$9500 left in the budget. Nick indicated that some of this money would be allocated for the pruning of trees. He also noted that there could be some additional planting of trees on Mansfield Avenue. The Tree Committee as a whole discussed other potential sites. Nick recommended that planting should be focused along arteries. In addition, new plantings of trees should be concentrated, so Public Works can more easily attend to watering. Warren said that after pulling trees from the BOB nursery, part of the budget will be used to purchase new bare root trees to plant at the nursery.

6. Pocket Park Update.

Nick indicated that currently there was nothing new to share.

7. Green Space Signs

Nick provided an update on the green space signs which highlight the planting of new trees in the Village. Steve indicated that he is working on QR codes for the signs that will provide more information. The signs will be moved to different tree-planting locations after about 10 days.

8. Public Engagement

Warren noted that Committee will be submitting the application for Tree City USA which includes a proclamation for Arbor Day. Nick asked the Committee to consider at which school in the Village should an Arbor Day event and tree planting occur. Rich suggested that the Committee might consider engaging homeowners and combining an Arbor Day event with an ash tree replanting as a way to further educate about Emerald Ash Borer. The Committee as a whole suggested other sites for Arbor Day including Maple Street Park, Hiawatha, Old Colchester Road (in conjunction with the CTE). Warren indicated that the Committee needs to update the "tree walk" at Maple Street Park.

Warren noted that he was asked to share the history of the Essex Junction Tree Advisory Committee at the next Branch Out Burlington meeting.

Max Seaton from the Rotary Club attended the meeting and indicated that the Rotary is interested in supporting the work of the Committee.

Adjournment

Rich made a motion to adjourn at 6:40, Second by Tim.