

# ***AGENDA***

## **CITY OF PORTSMOUTH**

### **TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY COMMITTEE**

**7:30 AM—Wednesday, March 12, 2014**  
**Portsmouth City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Manager's Conference Room**

1. Acceptance of Minutes of the February 12, 2014 Meeting (Attached)
2. Tree Removal Requests:
  - Langdon Park (Sugar Maple behind 55 Kent Street)
  - 225 Borthwick Avenue – Liberty Mutual; 17 Sugar Maples (See Attached Letter)
  - 64 Mount Vernon Street – Multiple Trees
3. Presentation/Update on Sagamore Avenue Improvements
4. Spring 2014 Plantings
5. Requests Concerning 353 Miller Avenue (See Attached)
6. Tree Planting Request – 1 Denise Street, Maplehaven (Request for 2 Trees)
7. Update on Lafayette Road/Market Street Extension Improvements
8. Tree Planting Procedures – Burlap/Bare Roots/Fertilizer, Etc.
9. Old Business
10. New Business
11. Next Meeting-Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Respectfully submitted, Peter J. Loughlin-Chair

**TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY COMMITTEE**  
**City of Portsmouth**

**MINUTES**

**7:30 AM – Wednesday, February 12, 2014**  
**Portsmouth City Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, City Manger’s Conference Room**

**Members Present:** Peter Loughlin, Chairman; Richard Adams, Vice Chairman; Peter Rice, Director, Public Works; Todd Croteau, Public Works General Foreman; A. J. Dupere, Community Forester; Leslie Stevens; Dennis Souto

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. and introduced the members of the Committee.

1. **Acceptance of Minutes of the January 8, 2014 Meeting** – Unanimously approved.
2. **Tree Removal Requests** – none.
3. **Update on Route 1 Bypass/Lafayette Road Intersection Reconstruction/Planting** – Mr. Dupere indicated he and Peter Rice were setting up a meeting with DOT as the State is starting to gear up with their weekly meetings. They should have something to report by next month.

Attorney Loughlin asked for the status of the Market Street extension project. Mr. Rice indicated the Conceptual Plans are done and it was in the design stage. Once the alignments are done they can start with the selection of trees. By next meeting they should have a set of drawings to start looking at. Mr. Rice felt they should have the landscape architect at next month’s meeting. He is not sure the project will actually start construction this year.

4. **Discussion of 2014 Plantings List** – Mr. Adams suggested that they try to do this in the fall next year as they are already getting close to planting season. Attorney Loughlin stated they have tried to identify tree placement for most areas on the list. Mr. Rice distributed a booklet prepared by Public Works with ortho pictures of the sites identified on the list.

Mr. Adams suggested that they break the list into pieces so that teams of two people could go out and look at different sections and make recommendations for species. Mr. Croteau stated that the list of people who have requested trees should be fairly easy to assess. Mr. Dupere asked if the people indicated what species they wanted. Mr. Croteau responded that some did and some didn’t. Ms. Stevens added that her experience in the past is that they often go out and look at a site and realize there is no room for a new tree.

Mr. Dupere confirmed they are 3 weeks away from when they should be sending their bids out on trees. Mr. Croteau agreed that they had about a month before they start to finalize their lists so he would need this list by the end of March. Mr. Rice asked if the goal this spring was to do the 49 sites

identified by specific names and do the next round next fall. Some sites will be delayed due to construction, such as Aldrich Street or Mendum Street.

It was agreed that Mr. Adams and Mr. Croteau would meet to divide up the list and provide assignments to each Committee member.

Mr. Souto asked if there is a list of possible species or an updated list that the contractors will be able to fulfill. Mr. Croteau indicated they can get just about anything although some trees go better than others. Mr. Souto made the comment that they needed more of the smaller trees. Mr. Dupere stated he will send out a couple of lists that he has.

Mr. Adams asked if the nurseries can typically come up with forest-type trees. Mr. Dupere assured him that the nurseries can come up with anything you want although they may not stock it. Mr. Adams was thinking about the City parks and trying to get more variety. There is only one hickory tree that he can think of in the parks.

**5. Update on Ceres Street Planters, Planting Protocols, Fertilizing Policies, Haven Park Wooley Adelgid Problems -**

Ceres Street Planters – Mr. Rice believed that Nancy Carmer was talking to the potential supplier who was going to build the planters (Zen Stone Works).

Planting Protocols – the Committee has been talking about different processes for using burlap. Mr. Dupere added it was whether they want the burlap in place, the baskets in place or what they want removed when planting. Mr. Rice felt that by taking the burlap off they seem to be helping the root ball fall apart. Mr. Dupere responded that he just floods the whole base with water and it gets rid of any of the air that has gotten in there but it was a trade off either way. Ms. Stevens asked if the metal basket was on the outside or inside of the burlap. Mr. Dupere explained that it depends and the tree could have multiple layers of burlap. The burlap and the baskets will degrade over time but it takes a long time for that to happen. One technique is to take the top 1/3 of the burlap off or roll it down before planting. Mr. Adams felt that if you don't at least peel the burlap back you can't see anything. Mr. Dupere has dug up several trees with the basket and burlap still on them several years later. He stated you can also spray chemicals on it to keep it from rotting so that it does not deteriorate. He indicated that the way he does it is much more labor intensive. Mr. Adams felt there may be some middle ground. He watched Stratham Circle and they have a very relaxed view of this and they do nothing at all. Mr. Dupere stated that the ANSI 300 Standard just came out and he ordered a copy. He will give the members the ANSI recommendations. Mr. Rice thought it sounded like the compromise would be to take the basket off and turn the burlap down but still holding the soils so that they don't have air spaces by not having the wicking. Mr. Dupere felt that taking the basket off poses the risk of having the root ball fall apart. You can set the tree with the basket on and then cut it off. Mr. Dupere will have some information for them next month.

Haven Park Wooley Adelgid Problems – Mr. Dupere indicated they will not be treating for this until the springtime and they have bugs for that. This spring they will use soil injections or spray the trees again in Haven Park instead of the bugs until the bugs are ready in the summer.

Fertilizing policies – Mr. Rice indicated this was part of ANSI Section 300. Mr. Dupere felt this was an issue that people don't always agree on. They were talking about post fertilizing for trees that have been planted for a year or two or those that have been tagged.

Attorney Loughlin asked about the Sagamore Avenue project. Mr. Rice indicated that the design engineer would probably be coming in next month. The City is shooting for a portion of the project to start in August (from the bridge to Little Harbor Road) and the rest will be done next year.

Mr. Souto asked if there are studies about fertilizing vs. not fertilizing. Mr. Dupere confirmed there are and he will look into that.

6. **Update on Sagamore Avenue Reconstruction** – see above discussion.

7. **Old Business** - none

8. **New Business** – Mr. Souto stated that he was recently walking around Peirce Island when the snow was on the ground and he was amazed how many Canadian geese droppings were concentrate in those areas. He asked if they have any type of management of geese in the City. Mr. Rice responded that they did not at this time.

Mr. Dupere reminded the Committee that Arbor Day is the last Friday of April. Mr. Rice believed that Nancy Carmer usually handles that. Attorney Loughlin thought that the guys from the landscape companies usually get together and do something. Mr. Rice stated they need to get the Tree City application in and they need to scheduled something before April 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Dupere felt that Arbor Day can be celebration on whatever day the City wants. Mr. Rice added that they will need a Declaration of Arbor Day for the Council. Ms. Stevens also mentioned Earth Day, which is very close to Arbor Day. Mr. Adams stated that he would like to see the school children involved somehow. The third graders do a section on seed planting and growing. Mr. Rice indicated that his wife was a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and he would talk to her.

Mr. Rice brought up “Adopt a Spot”. They are doing a press release, soliciting volunteers. There are 48 spots and 4 are currently occupied. They are doing a kick off and will be looking for volunteers. Ms. Stevens asked if any of the spots are big enough to grow vegetables. Mr. Rice did not believe so. Ms. Stevens stated she would like to see a big community garden in the City.

Japanese Cherry Blossom Trees. Mr. Dupere indicated that Sherburne School is still looking for some trees and City Hall needs some replacements. He still has plenty of trees.

PSNH tree trimming. Ms. Stevens stated that they recently took off the whole side of a pine tree by the Loughlin's house yesterday. Mr. Rice indicated they are going to prepare something for the City Newsletter. PSNH sends people cards which talks about the pruning process and if the homeowner responds and says that they want a consultation, PSNH will come and do the pruning more carefully. Otherwise they will come and just clear cut it. They have the right to maintain PSNH wires in a public right-of-way (15' above, 8' from the furthest line, and 10' below). They have not pruned in quite a few years so we are seeing dramatic changes but they are within their rights. They have five groups of

trucks working now and Corin Hallowell at DPW is following the PSNH crews around. It appears that they have one crew that doesn't do a very good job.

9. **Next Meeting** – Wednesday, March 12, 2014.

A motion to adjourn at 8:15 a.m. was made and seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. Shouse  
Administrative Assistant  
Planning Department



**Liberty Mutual Insurance**

Facility Operations  
150 Liberty Way  
Dover, NH 03820  
(603) 245-3150  
(603) 740-3580 Fax

February 28, 2014

Mr. Todd Croteau  
General Foreman  
Public Works Department  
680 Peverly Hill Rd  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Dear Todd,

Thank you for meeting with me on February 26 to discuss Liberty Mutual's plans to replace the dying maple trees in front of our facility on Borthwick Ave. in Portsmouth. Despite years of effort and expense, we have been unable to slow the decline in the health of the trees. This is likely due to their close proximity to water and their exposure to road salt and ice melting products.

Liberty is proposing to replace the existing 17 maple trees with 14 pin oaks. Pin oaks are relatively tolerant of water and salt and should fare better than the maples. At the time of planting, the new trees will be 5.5 inch caliber, 25 feet tall, have a crown of 20 feet, and will be placed 40 feet on center. All dimensions are approximate. At maturity, the pin oaks will be larger than the existing maples so this requires a wider spacing and a fewer number of trees.

We will remove the existing trees and install the new trees over two weekends to mitigate traffic impacts on Borthwick Ave. No logistical or financial support will be required from the City. We don't anticipate the need for a police detail due to low weekend traffic volume. During this activity, care will be taken not to disturb the adjacent concrete sidewalk.

Liberty Mutual takes pride in the appearance and maintenance of its facilities and understands the importance of trees and landscape plants to the City's environment as well as the benefits they provide. We trust that this plan will meet with the City's approval so that the character of this section of Borthwick Ave. can be maintained.

Sincerely,

Carl Cressey FMA, CFM  
Regional Facility Manager  
Liberty Mutual Insurance



Peter Loughlin <peter.loughlin@pjllaw.com>

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**FW: replacement tree?**

1 message

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**Todd J. Croteau** <tjcroteau@cityofportsmouth.com>  
To: Peter Loughlin <peter.loughlin@pjllaw.com>

Thu, Feb 27, 2014 at 9:59 AM

FYI

Todd Croteau  
General Foreman  
City of Portsmouth Public Works

Office (603) 766-1428  
Fax (603) 427-1539

-----Original Message-----

From: Alan Brady On Behalf Of webmaster  
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 4:30 PM  
To: Todd J. Croteau; Roberta Orsini  
Subject: FW: replacement tree?



-----Original Message-----

From: Dave Cokely [mailto:dicokely@comcast.net]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 4:28 PM  
To: webmaster  
Subject: replacement tree?

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Dave Cokely (dicokely@comcast.net) on Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 15:27:37

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address: 353 Miller Avenue

city: Portsmouth

state: nh

zip: 03801

comments: We are inquiring about the tree in front of our house and wondering about the possibility of it being replaced. The limbs of the tree came down on our front porch last year and the tree was excessively trimmed for the power lines,

Engage: Submit

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REMOTE\_ADDR: 75.68.180.89