

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

MINUTES

**7:30 AM – Wednesday, May 9, 2018
Portsmouth City Hall**

Members Present: Peter J. Loughlin, Chairman; Richard Adams, Vice-Chairman; Leslie Stevens, A. J. Dupere, Dennis Souto; Peter Rice, Director of Public Works; Corin Hallowell, City Arborist; Joan Walker and Dan Umbro

Members Excused: Todd Croteau, Foreman, DPW

Chairman Loughlin called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

1. Acceptance of Minutes of the April 11, 2018 Meeting

The April 11, 2018 minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Tree Removal Requests:

Note: The following requests were not addressed in chronological order due to city residents being present for some of the requests and because of grouping other requests.

130 Aldrich Road – 1 Norway Maple (Requested by DPW):

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Ms. Walker moved to remove the tree, and Mr. Souto seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

642 Colonial Drive – 1 Linden (Requested by Eversource):

679 Colonial Drive – 2 Lindens (Requested by Eversource):

The homeowner of 642 Colonial Drive, John Schreiner, was present. He said he had no problem with removing the tree.

The Committee also addressed the two lindens at 679 Colonial Drive and combined the two requests into one motion. Mr. Hallowell recommended removal of the two lindens and the Norway maple.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Souto moved to remove the three trees, and Ms. Stevens seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

45 Elwyn Road – 6 White Pines & 1 Red Oak (Requested by Eversource):

Mr. Dupere noted that more trees would be cut in the area due to a series of telephone poles that would be installed. Mr. Hallowell said he could discuss new plantings with the residents and thought that it might also be a good place for tree grants.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Dupere moved to remove the trees, and Mr. Souto seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

123 McKinley Road – 1 White Ash (Requested by Eversource):

The Committee agreed to postpone removal until further discussion with an Eversource representative.

270 McKinley Road – 1 Red Maple (Requested by Eversource):

The homeowner Steve Achilles was present and said he was in favor of the tree's removal, but he questioned whether the tree was in the right-of-way or on his property line. He also asked how long the wait period would be because he wanted to re-soil his property. Mr. Hallowell recommended voting on the tree's removal because the homeowner was in favor, and he said he would apprise Eversource of the decision so that they could remove the tree as soon as possible.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Rice moved to remove the tree, and Mr. Souto seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

41 Taft Road – 1 White Pine (Requested by Eversource):

The Committee agreed to postpone removal until further discussion with an Eversource representative.

43 Taft Road – 1 Red Oak (Requested by Eversource):

The Committee agreed to postpone removal until further discussion with an Eversource representative.

53 Taft Road - 1 White Oak, 1 Red Oak & 1 White Pine (Requested by Eversource):

The homeowner Amy Abbott was present. She noted that Eversource pruned some trees and left others alone. She requested that the trees not be removed. She also noted that another pine tree was marked for removal. Mr. Hallowell said it was because it the tree was near the road. Mr. Rice suggested that Ms. Abbott access the online website MapGeo to see where her property boundary was.

Mr. Hallowell suggested that the trees recommended for removal be further discussed with Eversource.

It was agreed that the issue would be discussed at the next meeting.

The Committee also discussed the significant loss of canopy cover in some areas. Mr. Souto asked whether Eversource had a program to support canopy replacement. Mr. Hallowell said he would discuss it with Eversource.

3. Update on Spring 2018 Planting

Mr. Hallowell stated that there was a pre-bid meeting the following day and that the bids were due by the following week. He noted that the job had to be completed by June 20. Vice-Chair Adams asked whether the City could purchase a Kentucky coffee tree. Mr. Hallowell replied that the City already had several of them planted and that one or more could be made available.

4. Update on Eversource Maplewood Avenue Removal Requests:

Mr. Hallowell stated that Eversource would not remove the trees on Emery Street. He said the Committee could revisit the issue and that Eversource might remove the trees at some point. He noted that Eversource would replant on the other side of the project. Mr. Rice asked whether the planting could take place right away, but Mr. Hallowell said the area was too scrubby.

5. Old Business:

There was no old business.

6. New Business:

Ms. Stevens said a citizen was concerned about a damaged crab tree at the end of the cemetery on Sagamore Road. Mr. Hallowell said he would look at it.

Mr. Souto asked what the process to nominate replacement Committee members was. Chairman Loughlin said they had to apply to the mayor but that the Committee could write a letter of recommendation.

Mr. Hallowell said there were dead-looking plants and shrubs and declining trees at the top of Langdon Park and thought it was appropriate that only trees be planted in that area because it was an arboretum. He recommended that the Committee consider different specimens.

Chairman Loughlin said there were two sugar maples at the corner of Bow and Pleasant Streets that were failing and might have to be replaced at some point.

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 13, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Breault
Recording Secretary

These Minutes were approved at the June 13, 2018 Trees & Greenery Committee Meeting.