

TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY COMMITTEE
City of Portsmouth

MINUTES

7:30 AM – Wednesday, June 13, 2018
Portsmouth City Hall, 4th Floor, City Manager's Conference Room

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

Members Excused: None

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

1. Acceptance of Minutes of the May 9, 2018 Meeting

The May 9, 2018 minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Tree Removal Requests:

(Note: the sequence of the tree removal requests as noted on the original agenda was changed due to two residents being present).

14 Sheffield Road – Norway maple (requested by resident):

The resident Johanna Soris was present. Mr. Hallowell stated that the tree had a lot of decline and recommended removing and replacing it. He said he would place the tree on the tree replacement list and contact Ms. Soris next spring for a potential replacement date of July 2019. Chairman Loughlin suggested adding an expanse of trees on a part of Sheffield Road where there were no trees.

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

170 Melbourne Street – Red maple (requested by resident):

The resident Maria Pappas was present. Chairman Loughlin noted that the tree was placed inside the resident's driveway. Ms. Pappas said there was a spot in front of her home that could use a replacement tree for one that was removed due to storm damage. The Committee further discussed it. Hallowell said the tree in the driveway would be removed sometime in July.

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

294 Lincoln Avenue – Linden (requested by resident):

Mr. Hallowell said the resident requested the tree's removal because its roots were invading the sewer line. Mr. Hallowell said he did not recommend the healthy tree's removal. Mr. Dupere asked what the process would be if the sewer line was replaced or repaired or if the line was directly under the tree. Mr. Rice said the contractor could damage the tree's roots if they did sewer work but said the homeowner was responsible for his portion of the line. The Committee noted that they had never voted to remove a healthy tree just because it was near a sewer line.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Rice moved not to recommend removal of the tree, and Vice-Chair Adams seconded. The motion **passed** by unanimous vote.*

Wentworth Street – Norway maple (requested by DPW):

Chairman Loughlin said the tree was located adjacent to the Pleasant Street cemetery. Mr. Hallowell said the tree's decay was extensive and that he would hate to see it collapse in the historic cemetery. He recommended replacing it with a different tree. Mr. Souto noted that some other nearby trees looked like they were declining and thought that they would also eventually be removed and replaced.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Dupere moved to recommend removal of the tree, and Mr. Souto seconded. The motion **passed** by unanimous vote.*

3. Update on Spring 2018 Planting

Mr. Hallowell stated that the contract was awarded to Piscataqua Landscaping and that the trees were to be delivered that day. He said they would begin planting the trees the following week.

4. Article from Greenwich Sentinel re: Trees "Doing What Trees Do Naturally"

Chairman Loughlin recommended the article that Vice-Chair Adams submitted to the Committee, noting that it was a great article that discussed how trees lost their bark and leaves naturally, and so on.

5. Old Business

There was no old business.

6. New Business

The Committee discussed the recent swam of bees in Market Square. Chairman Loughlin said the City did a good job of removing the hive.

Chairman Loughlin thanked Ms. Stevens (who is moving to Maine) for her great service with the Committee and said that she would be missed. Ms. Stevens replied that it had been great being a part of the Committee.

Chairman Loughlin noted for the record that three large City projects on Sagamore Avenue, Market Street Extension, and Islington Street looked fantastic.

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 11, 2018

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Breault
Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved at the July 11, 2018 Trees & Greenery Committee Meeting.