

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

**MINUTES**

**7:30 AM – Wednesday, July 11, 2018**

**Portsmouth City Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> 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; Michael Griffin

**Members Excused:** Dan Umbro

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*Chairman Loughlin called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. He introduced the new member Michael Griffin.*

**1. Acceptance of Minutes of the June 13, 2018 Meeting**

*It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed to **approve** the June 13, 2018 minutes.*

**2. Tree Removal Requests:**

***Borthwick Avenue – 9 Honey Locusts, 1 White Pine and 2 large areas of underbrush (Eversource request)***

Mr. Hallowell said that Eversource requested that the trees be removed so that space could be cleared for transmission lines. Chairman Loughlin asked whether the trees could be pruned instead. Mr. Hallowell said that it would take too long to prune all the trees in time for the line and road clearances. He said he would ask Eversource to donate some trees for the spring planting to compensate for all the trees they were removing.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Rice moved to recommend removal of the trees, and Mr. Souto seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

***Montieth Street – 2 Black Cherry, 1 Box elder, 2 Apple, 2 Norway Maples, 3 White Ash, 1 Hawthorne and 1 area of undergrowth and brush (Eversource request)***

Mr. Hallowell said all the poles needed to be replaced and that the tree canopies of the trees requested to be removed were in line with the wire. He said he thought that one of the ash trees could be saved, however.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Souto moved to recommend removal of the requested trees, and Ms. Walker seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

***Daniel Street (at corner of Bow) – 2 Sugar Maples***

Mr. Hollowell said the two sugar maples were in serious decline, even though they had been pruned a few times. He suggested replanting two trees in the spring.

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

### **3. Presentation Concerning Deer Street Associates Open Space Landscaping Adjacent to Parking Garage at Foundry Place**

Gregg Mikolaities of August Consulting on behalf of Deer Street Associates was present, along with the landscape architect Bob White. Mr. Mikolaities gave a brief history of the site, noting that the 8,000 square-foot pocket park was adjacent to the new Deer Street parking garage and would most likely be used as a city community space. He distributed a packet to the members and reviewed the site plan. He said the park would be a canyon-like space and would be split into two parts: the front half would be a paved outdoor seating area and the back half would be a landscaped space with a raised panel of lawn. He said they were thinking of setting up two areas of plantings in the front part, with trees in pavement or in raingardens, and placing trees in landscape beds in the back part. He said they were considering two species of trees, the honey locust and the red maple. Mr. Hollowell said he preferred different species because the city's urban forest was inundated with honey locusts and red maples. He recommended the Swamp white oak tree and the Kentucky coffeetree. Mr. White said they wanted a clear area of approximately 14 feet under a canopy of trees, due to 50 feet of building above that.

Planting pits were discussed. Vice-Chair Adams noted that climate warming was an issue and recommended that tree species that were more likely to prosper in the warmer climate be considered. Mr. Hollowell said the recent planting list did factor in climate change.

Mr. Hollowell asked that the city's planting requirements be part of the contractor's specifications and said he would send them to Mr. White.

Mr. White discussed how they would use one tree pit and the rest would be in planting soil. He said that three feet of planting soil would be built up to the finished elevation and that portions of it would be flush to the ground and others would have openings for raingardens.

Mr. Mikolaities said they still had to go before the Technical Advisory Committee and the Planning Board and that he would like two or three different species to present to them.

Mr. Griffin asked whether there was a concern about a lack of sunlight for the trees, seeing that the park was a canyon configuration. Mr. White said there would be sufficient sun.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Rice moved that it be stated that guidance was given by the committee relative to tree selection and that the city's planting specifications be used as part of the contractor's planting specifications. Mr. Souto seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

#### **4. Update on 2018 Spring/Summer Place**

Mr. Hallowell said that all the trees were planted and that, although some transplant shock was occurring, he didn't have any concerns about any of the trees at this time.

Mr. Souto asked about the Kentucky coffeetree on Lincoln Avenue. Mr. Hallowell said it was a funky species that was always touch-and-go but noted that they had averaged only 3-4 losses per year at a maximum, which was low.

Mr. Griffin asked how the new planting sites were chosen. Mr. Hallowell said it was a combination of previous tree removals, owner requests, and, occasionally, tree grants.

Chairman Loughlin remarked that Mr. Hallowell was recommending different species as opposed to simply 'native' species. Mr. Hallowell said it was a loose term because most of the trees weren't native species and that it was better to have diversity. He also noted that drought and climate warming had been more common recently than in past years.

#### **5. Old Business**

Mr. Griffin said he looked at a locust and two poplars on Maplewood Avenue that had been tagged for removal. Mr. Hallowell said the city didn't have the time or resources to relocate those trees, and that it would not be cost-effective to do so. It was further discussed.

Chairman Loughlin said he had a letter from a resident who was concerned about removing trees and shrubs in Goodwin Park. He said he forwarded it to Mr. Rice, who in turn sent the woman a letter addressing her concerns. Mr. Rice said the city had received some positive feedback from residents about the work being done in Goodwin Park.

#### **6. New Business**

Mr. Rice said an issue had come up relative to maintaining shrubs and hedges along city sidewalks. He said there was an informal policy of working with property owners, but occasionally some owners didn't want to do anything. He recommended that the committee draft a formal policy that reinforced the city's right to maintain sight distances and safe walkways. Chairman Loughlin said he believed the city already had a statute stating that if a hedge was in the line of sight, the municipality had the right to protect the safety of drivers using that roadway. Mr. Rice said he would ask the Legal Department for more information.

#### **7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 8, 2018.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Breault  
Recording Secretary