

**Trees and Public Greenery Committee
City of Portsmouth**

MINUTES

**7:30 a.m. – Wednesday, October 10, 2018
Portsmouth City Hall, 4th Floor, City Manager’s Conference Room**

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

Members Excused: Corin Hallowell, City Arborist; Michael Griffin

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

1. Acceptance of Minutes of the September 12, 2018 Meeting

*It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed to **approve** the September 12, 2018 minutes.*

2. Tree Removals

66 Benson Street – American Elm (requested by resident)

Vice-Chair Adams said he looked at the tree and had not seen anything wrong with it.

The request was postponed to the November 14 meeting so that Mr. Hallowell could address it

3. Rescheduling of Site Visit for 2019 Plantings

Chairman Loughlin said the site visit would be tentatively postponed to Wednesday, October 17, at 7:30 a.m. if Mr. Hallowell was available. If he wasn’t available, the site visit would take place Wednesday, October 24.

***Action Item:** Chairman Loughlin said he would email everyone about the final date.*

4. Old Business

Mr. Rice said the City received a grant from Stonyfield Farm to do a pilot study at the Alumni Field and that they had two years of pre-consulting from Chip Osborne, who was renowned for organic farm management. Mr. Rice said the City also received a \$5,000 grant to buy equipment and to do associated maintenance. He said they would have a booth at the October 27 Farmers Market and would hold a grand opening in the spring and that he looked forward to seeing how the program would apply to an urban infrastructure. He said he would apprise the Committee of further developments.

Mr. Rice noted that the two Burning Bushes at the Prescott Park entrance were slated to be removed and thought that it was appropriate to post the removal and have a public hearing at the next meeting. Chairman Loughlin noted that the bushes were so big that they detracted from the rest of the garden.

Mr. Rice said the City was involved in qualification bids for an engineering firm to take the Master Plan to the next step for Prescott Park.

Vice-Chair Adams said that a few citizens approached him about the trees at the dog park in the hope to have shade there. He said the trees could be planted outside the chain-link fence. Mr. Rice said that Mr. Hallowell was looking at what would be appropriate in that area.

Mr. Rice said the City had the funding to address the seawall in the South Mill area and was looking to expanding the scope to include other improvements, like an esplanade with benches. He also noted that the City needed to consider the cherry trees because they were stressed, and he thought it was an opportunity to resolve them.

5. New Business

Chairman Loughlin complimented the Public Works Division for the new islands across from the Wentworth Home. He noted that it would also slow traffic down and might be an opportunity for some nice plantings. Mr. Rice said he would pass Chairman Loughlin's congratulations to the Transportation Engineer, Dave Desfosses, and the Planning Department.

Chairman Loughlin discussed the Portsmouth 400th anniversary celebration and noted that, when Canada did their 200th anniversary, they installed raised beds with the words 'Canada 2018' on them and also had the Canada seal and flowers. He suggested that Portsmouth could do something similar, only with greenery instead of flowers, and that it could be located at Prescott Park or at entrances to the City. He recommended that the City start considering it. Mr. Rice said the City could work it into space near the Liberty Pole or some other spot and that he would discuss it with Mr. Hallowell and see if they could work with their Landscape Design Committee to do the preliminary planning in 2018.

Mr. Souto commented on how beautiful the flowers at the City Hall entryway were. Mr. Rice said that a company named Garden Bugs Landscaping did it as a volunteer donation and that they also helped with the design for the formal gardens. Chairman Loughlin suggested that the owner's efforts be noted in an 'Adopt-a-Spot' type of recognition. Mr. Rice said that the City's arborist coordinator would do an acknowledgement in November and that he thought it was appropriate to host it through the Trees and Greenery Committee. He said he would find out who was responsible for managing the Adopt-a-Spot program. He also noted that the City website was being revitalized so that the Trees and Greenery Committee included the Adopt-a-Spot section as well as various resources, meeting minutes, and so on.

Action Item: *Mr. Rice will ensure that the Committee is included in the Adopt-a-Spot program and will notify the Committee of the date of acknowledgement.*

6. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 14, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Breault
Recording Secretary