

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

MINUTES

**7:30 a.m. – Wednesday, November 14, 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; Corin Hallowell, City Arborist; A. J. Dupere, Joan Walker, Dan Umbro, Michael Griffin

Also Present: Charles Baxter, City Arborist

Members Excused: Dennis Souto

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

1. Acceptance of Minutes of the October 10, 2018 Meeting

*It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed to **approve** the October 10, 2018 minutes.*

2. Tree Removals

Colonial Drive – Red Cedar (requested by resident)

Mr. Hallowell stated that, in addition to the removal of the red cedar, the resident also requested a planting in the center of the traffic aisle that would accentuate the entrance monument stone.

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

396 Cutts Avenue – Red Maple (requested by DPW)

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

523 Dennett Street – Arborvitae (requested by resident)

Mr. Baxter stated that one arborvitae was leaning heavily and that the other tree had fallen.

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

Pleasant Street (Haven Park) – Norway Maple (requested by DPW)

Mr. Hallowell said the tree was protruding into the proposed sidewalk's footprint. He said there were enough funds to plant another tree in that location in the spring.

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

Chairman Loughlin noted that the Department of Public Works (DPW) had also recommended removing other trees from that area. Mr. Rice said that the DPW was envisioning how they would improve Haven Park by doing such things as adding a pedestrian accessway and benches and eliminating a section roadway for a better connection to the park. Mr. Griffin noted that a Golden Chain tree was in distress and should be looked at.

Action Item: *Mr. Hallowell will consider the condition of the Golden Chain tree in Haven Park.*

Prescott Park – Euonymous shrubs (requested by DPW)

Mr. Hallowell said it was requested that the shrubs by the Liberty Pole be removed to open up the view to Prescott Park. He said the area would be landscaped.

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

10 Willard Avenue – Norway Maple (requested by resident)

Mr. Baxter said the tree had lost a second giant leader and that there was decay at the tree's base.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Vice-Chair Adams moved to recommend removal of the tree, and Mr. Griffin seconded. The motion **passed** by unanimous vote.*

759 Woodbury Avenue – Silver Maple (requested by resident)

Mr. Baxter said the top of the tree was gone and recommended that the tree be removed.

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

9 Worthern Road – Norway Maple (requested by resident)

Mr. Baxter noted that multiple large limbs were coming off the tree and that the tree was a threat to the resident's home.

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

Mr. Hallowell also noted that there was a red maple on 267 Broad Street that should be removed because the root system was going through the resident's home and pushing the back wall out, causing major renovations. He said it would be placed on the December agenda for removal.

3. Landscape Plan for Senior Center, 125 Cottage Street/Former Doble Army Reserve, presented by Assistant City Manager David Moore

Mr. Moore distributed a landscape plan to the Committee and showed photos of the property and the building's exterior. He said the City would do an adaptive re-use of the existing building without adding to its footprint or deconstructing any of it. He said most of the improvements to the site were around the building itself, including paved parking, access drives, and perimeter fencing. He described the new entrance that would make the building look less institutional and more welcoming. He said the building would be primarily a senior center but would develop into a broader community center in the future. He reviewed the site plan and the recommended planting species and noted that the landscape architect had already consulted with Mr. Hallowell. He asked the Committee for their comments. Mr. Hallowell noted that certain trees had already been specified and were species that could tolerate drought and other urban conditions.

Vice-Chair Adams asked why the project had not started out as a general community center instead of a senior center. Mr. Moore said there was a vibrant senior population that would use the site but that it would also be a community center for adults that would also house some youth-oriented programs. He noted that it would be an opportunity for seniors to interact with other people in the community and to also enjoy meals from the Meals on Wheels program, but that the facility would serve as a hub for intergenerational types of programs.

Vice-Chair Adams asked whether there was vegetation between the existing stone wall and Cottage Street. Mr. Moore said they didn't have anything planned for the field between the building and Cottage Street because they wanted to maintain the open space.

Chairman Loughlin asked whether there could be street trees running parallel to Cottage Street. Mr. Moore said there could be concerns with the stone wall and drainage ditch. Mr. Rice said the ditch could be too close to the edge of the road and might have to be pushed back, and Mr. Moore said they planned to extend a crosswalk on Cottage Street. It was further discussed.

Mr. Dupere asked whether the contractors had arborists who would be responsible for the trees on the property or whether the City would be responsible. Mr. Moore said the property's abutters requested that the City manage the trees, but that the City would evaluate whether they or the contractor would do it. He noted that the City might do work pertaining to water, sewer, and so on to reduce the scope of the general contract work.

***Action Item:** Chairman Loughlin said the Committee would tour the site that day after the planting site tour and get back to Mr. Moore with their suggestions.*

4. Tree Grant Request – 465 Cutts Avenue

Mr. Baxter said the location was a great spot to plant a tree because the resident lived at the end of the street, with no trees or utilities around the property.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Rice moved to approve the request for a new tree, and Mr. Umbro seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

5. Old Business

There was no old business.

6. New Business

Mr. Hallowell thanked Mr. Griffin for the five trees that he and his sister donated to the City. He said they were planted at various locations, including Peirce Island and the Route 33 dog park.

Mr. Hallowell told the Commission that there would be an Adopt-a-Spot volunteer recognition event at City Hall on November 28 at 8:30 a.m. to thank all the volunteers.

Mr. Dupere said that a resident of the Frank Jones property off Woodbury Avenue requested that some trees be removed. He noted that one of the trees was a European beech. He said that several people were not in favor of the trees being removed and had suggested that the request go before the Committee but that he had told them that it wasn't part of the Committee's jurisdiction. He said he did not know the reason for the request to remove the trees and that he wasn't sure if the condominium association owned the property.

Vice-Chair Adams asked Mr. Hallowell why a tree at the north access to Leary Field was removed. Mr. Hallowell said the tree was removed because it was dead.

7. Tour of 2019 Planting Sites

The Committee noted that they would tour the sites immediately after the meeting.

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 12, 2018

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Breault
Recording Secretary