

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

**MINUTES**

**8:00 a.m. – Wednesday, September 11, 2019  
Portsmouth City Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Manager’s Conference Room**

**Members Present:** Peter J. Loughlin, Chairman; Richard Adams, Vice-Chairman; Peter Rice, Director of Public Works; City Arborist Corin Hallowell; Patricia Bagley and Michael Griffin

**Members Excused:** A. J. Dupere; Dennis Souto; Dan Umbro

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Chairman Loughlin called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. He welcomed the new committee member Patricia Bagley.

**1. Acceptance of Minutes of the August 14, 2019 Meeting**

*It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to **approve** the August 14, 2019 minutes as submitted.*

**2. Tree Removal Requests:**

1. 172 Elwyn Avenue – Sycamore Maple - Resident Request

Mr. Hallowell noted several locations of where sycamore maples were located in Portsmouth. He said the resident requested the tree’s removal because it had a dead top. Mr. Hallowell said the tree would not survive. Mr. Griffin said he didn’t think a replacement tree would thrive in the location due to the shade canopy.

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

**3. Report on the Success of the 2019 City-Wide Tree Planting Program**

Mr. Hallowell said the Tree Planting Program was going well. He noted that the second or third year was usually when true results were seen. He said that no newly-planted trees had died so far, except for two at the City’s dog park, and that the second year had been really good due to the excellent weather. He explained that compost mix was used to help the root systems grow, and he gave a few examples of trees that benefited from the mix.

Vice-Chair Adams pointed out that two swamp white oaks by the South Mill Pond parking lot were in an arid location. Mr. Hallowell said it was an upland species. He said a bald cypress was a great urban tree because it could tolerate all kinds of conditions, and

that a swamp white oak was usually successful as well. He did agree that the South Mill Pond was a brutal place to grow trees, however. He also gave examples of where swamp white oaks were planted in the City

Chairman Loughlin asked how the trees contained in bags were doing. Mr. Hallowell said they were doing great, except for one on Dennett Street that was ruined by kids skateboarding. He said that particular tree had been very small and that the City would have to get larger trees. He also noted that trees in bags were easy to grow and therefore very popular, so the City was considering pre-purchasing them and putting them aside until they grew to an appropriate size for planting.

#### **4. Old Business**

Mr. Hallowell said the Maplewood Avenue project contractor asked the City which tree species would be appropriate for a small circle of grass at their new intersection, and that it was decided that a dawn redwood would be planted. He said another apple tree would be planted in the green space behind the circle, noting that the green space already had a few semi-dwarf apple trees. He said a larger apple tree that was dying would be removed. He also noted that two bald cypress trees would be planted on Emery Street.

Mr. Griffin asked if there were trees on the Frank Jones property. Vice-Chair Adams said there were a Rocky Mountain white fir and an Oriental spruce that were original to the property. Vice-Chair Adams asked whether the dawn redwood on Maplewood Avenue would present a site distance issue. Mr. Hallowell said it was far enough back that it would be well protected. Vice-Chair Adams asked what happened to the willow tree on the west side of the library. Mr. Hallowell said it failed and that the library personnel wanted a mini-wildflower meadow in that location, so the City would grind the willow's stump, remove all the material, and loam the area so that the meadow could be planted. He said the library personnel also asked that a hedge be planted near the Norway maple along the fence, and he suggested planting a row of arborvitae to serve as a screen and also give the meadow plenty of room to thrive. He said the meadow would be finished by the end of September and the arborvitae would be planted in the spring.

Vice-Chair Adams said there was a leaning box elder near a resident's home close to where the now-removed willow tree stood that could be a threat to the neighboring property, and he and Mr. Hallowell said they would look at it after the meeting.

#### **5. New Business**

Mr. Rice requested that Mr. Hallowell look into the cherry trees on the Route One median because the tops were dying and he thought they should be replaced in 2020. He also noted that there was a Norway maple that needed to be removed at the end of Elwyn Avenue, where there was a merged lot project. He said he told the applicants that they would have to come before the committee to request the tree's removal after they received project approval from the Board of Adjustment.

Chairman Loughlin asked whether the Market Street Extension would have trees planted. Mr. Rice agreed. He said there would be a park with a walkway and benches as part of Phase 2 and that it would be completed in the spring.

**6. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 9, 2019**

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 a.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Breault  
T&G Committee Recording Secretary