

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

MINUTES

**7:30 a.m. – Wednesday, May 8, 2019
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; City Arborist Corin Hallowell; Dennis Souto, Joan Walker, and Michael Griffin

Members Excused: Dan Umbro, A. J. Dupere

Also Present: City Land Use Compliant Agent Vincent Hayes

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

1. Acceptance of Minutes of the April 10, 2019 Meeting

*The April 10, 2019 meeting minutes were **approved** by unanimous vote, with a minor change concerning the Camperdown elm on South Street.*

2. Tree Removal Requests

1. 799 South Street - Camperdown Elm-Clews subdivision - Ambit Engineering request

John Chagnon of Ambit Engineering was present on behalf of the resident Christopher Clews. He explained that the applicant was willing to move the driveway so that sight distances would not be impacted by the tree. He asked that the request to remove the tree be withdrawn since the tree no longer posed a safety issue.

Mr. Rice said he commended Mr. Clews for coming up with another solution and that it seemed like a reasonable compromise. He noted that the applicant would return if he didn’t receive approval from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Chairman Loughlin stated that the request was withdrawn.

2. Bridge Street - Parking lot – Linden tree – DPW request

Mr. Hallowell said the tree was almost dead and that another tree could be planted in that location in the spring.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Souto recommended the removal of the tree, and Mr. Walker seconded. The motion **passed** by unanimous vote.*

3. Update on spring 2019 planting

Mr. Hallowell said the spring planting should be completed that day, and he distributed copies of the tree planting list to the Committee members. He noted that there was a site on McDonough Street under construction that would be finished by June, so the tree would be planted then. He discussed the GB (grow back) trees, noting that twice as many of those trees could be planted because they cost so little and were easy to plant.

In response to Chairman Loughlin's questions, Mr. Hallowell said that foot traffic would not harm the trees because of the way the trees were staked. Regarding newly-created spots where the curbing was reset, Mr. Hallowell said there was one property that the Water Department had to mark where the water line was to see whether there was enough room to plant a tree. Mr. Rice said the new island on the corner of Pleasant and Court Streets would be cobbled. Chairman Loughlin said he appreciated the number of little bumpouts the City had done in the past few years and thought the aesthetics of cobblestone and curbing were better than painted asphalt.

Mr. Hallowell said there were seven additional trees not included on the list that would be planted and that he would let the Committee know the locations.

4. Update on Tree Protection Zone

Mr. Hallowell said he would have all the photos associated with the necessary steps to create a tree protection zone at the next meeting. He thanked Mr. Hayes for his help in doing inspections with him and all his other efforts. Mr. Hayes said they had not yet incorporated the details in the Planning Board approvals but that the Planning Board was aware that things would change. Mr. Rice said it was important to reach an understanding between the different departments concerning those issues, and he noted that his own staff was being educated as well.

5. Old Business

Mr. Rice said he was working with Dave Desfosses and Mr. Hallowell in removing a tree from the North Church property. He said the brick was being reworked and that rubberized, permeable pavement would be installed in a few weeks.

Mr. Hallowell said that the Arbor Day celebration was rescheduled to May 10 due to inclement weather and that there would be no rain date.

6. New Business

Mr. Hallowell said he had a signed tree grant application from a resident at 53 Whidden Street who wanted a tree planted in her yard. He said the request didn't quite meet the tree grant application rules but that he could make an adjustment. He explained that shade trees were removed for a sewer project, so it was appropriate to replace them with another tree, like a Kentucky coffee tree.

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

Mr. Rice stated that the Trees and Public Greenery Committee meetings would be held in Conference Room A, starting with the June meeting, to improve security in the building and limit public access to the fourth floor.

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 12, 2019

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Breault
Committee Recording Secretary