

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

**MINUTES**

**8:00 a.m. – Wednesday, February 12, 2020  
Portsmouth City Hall, Conference Room A**

**Members Present:** Peter J. Loughlin, Chairman; Peter Rice, Director of Public Works; Parks and Greenery Foreman Corin Hollowell; A. J. Dupere, Patricia Bagley, and Michael Griffin

**Members Excused:** Vice-Chairman Richard Adams; Dan Umbro, and Dennis Souto

**Also Present:** City Arborist Charles Baxter and City Construction Technical Supervisor Dave Desfosses

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Chairman Loughlin called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**1. Acceptance of Minutes of the January 8, 2020 Meeting**

The January 8, 2020 minutes were approved as presented.

**2. Tree Removal Requests:**

**41 Salem Street - Norway maple - Resident Request**

Joe Mulledy of Ambit Engineering was present on behalf of the owner, and he introduced the landscape architect Scott Collard. Mr. Mulledy reviewed the site, noting that the project's three new homes would be moved closer to the street frontage but would place the existing Norway maple in the middle of the driveway. Mr. Collard said an Amur Maachia was suggested as a replacement tree because it was the appropriate size and would fit the street pattern of trees. Mr. Hollowell said that one 2-inch tree would not replace the loss of the existing Norway maple, but that more trees could be placed in the area to ensure that there was sufficient canopy in the future. He recommended that the builder donate money toward the additional trees and pay for the maple's removal. The amount of the donation was discussed. Mr. Hollowell said the Amur Maachia tree was a good choice but wanted to ensure that the builder planted it to the City's specifications.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *It was moved to recommend removal of the existing Norway maple and replace it with an Amur Maachia at the builder's expense, with the following stipulations:*

- 1) the City Arborist and/or designees shall be present when the tree was planted to ensure that it met the City's planting specifications; and*

- 2) *the builder shall send a check for \$1,000 to the Department of Public Works, payable to the City of Portsmouth.*

*The motion **passed** by unanimous vote.*

### **256 Austin Street - Norway maple - DPW Request**

Mr. Baxter said the tree was hazardous and very decayed and that there would probably be room for a replacement tree once the soil was renewed. He said he would add the replacement tree to the 2022 Planting List and would coordinate it with Eversource.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *It was moved to recommend that the Norway maple be removed and replaced with a similar species in 2022.*

*The motion **passed** by unanimous vote.*

Note: The Committee then skipped to Item 4.

### **3. Further Discussion of 2020 Planting Sites**

Mr. Baxter said he would send out letters to citizens and find out which citizens did not want a tree. Mr. Hollowell noted that, in the past, trees would get planted and certain trees that citizens didn't want would have to be removed, so he preferred to know ahead of time whether or not citizens actually wanted the trees. Mr. Baxter agreed, adding that citizens could have issues with the tree planting that the City wasn't aware of. He said he would send the letters out as soon as possible.

### **4. Market Street Gateway Planting Update - Dave Desfosses and Charles Baxter**

Mr. Desfosses distributed the Phase 2 Planting Plan to the committee and reviewed it as follows:

- The proposed kiosk would have two displays highlighting the history of shipbuilding on the river and the Albacore submarine and would be completed in May or June;
- the bridge rail and joint would be rehabbed in the summer;
- paving operations would begin soon, and the bike lanes and traffic markings would be applied in September;
- five trees planted on top of a main sewer line would be removed and relocated somewhere inside the Gateway Park; and
- a new shoreline path would begin at the Gateway and tie into the park, necessitating some planting changes that wouldn't conflict with the path.

Mr. Desfosses said all the trees would be irrigated and that he would further discuss the park at the next meeting. Chairman Loughlin said the plans coming out of Public Works would have never happened in his lifetime and that he thought the last 30-year period of environmental awareness was fantastic.

## **5. Plaza 800 Street Trees**

Mr. Rice said his department spoke to Piscataqua Landscaping about the possibility of relocating some trees on the north side of the road that conflicted with the underground conduit. He said if the City could work with the property owners, he'd return with an adjusted plan that had suitable alternatives.

## **6. Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

## **7. New Business**

Mr. Dupere confirmed that the trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) beetle in Madbury and Dover would be removed. He said there was no funding mechanism for treating the trees but that his staff was working on a treatment program and would try to get funding by the spring. Mr. Rice suggested that Mr. Dupere use maintenance money in the meantime for any affected trees in Portsmouth so that the trees could be treated quickly and wouldn't result in a crisis mode. Mr. Dupere discussed the treating injection method and said the cost for treating dozens of trees would be enormous, so they were encouraging towns to analyze the affected trees before putting money into treating them. Mr. Baxter said there were about a dozen standout ash trees in the city that may be worth treating. Mr. Rice suggested putting a list of those trees together. Mr. Dupere explained the tree disposing process, noting that it was important to remove the affected trees quickly and burning the wood locally. He suggested that people access the NHBugs website to learn more.

Mr. Rice said he and Mr. Baxter attended the New England Organic Farmers Association meeting and that Mr. Baxter did a great job representing Portsmouth.

Mr. Hallowell said the update of bare root tree planting would be available soon.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2020**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Breault  
Committee Recording Secretary