

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

MINUTES

**8:00 a.m. – Wednesday, December 9, 2020
Remote Meeting via Zoom Conference Call**

Members Present: Peter J. Loughlin, Chairman; Richard Adams, Vice-Chairman; Peter Rice, Director of Public Works; City Arborist Foreman Chuck Baxter; A. J. Dupere, Patricia Bagley, Michael Griffin, and Dan Umbro

Members Excused: Dennis Souto

Also Present: Deborah Chag

1. Acceptance of Minutes of the November 18, 2020 Meeting

The November 18, 2020 minutes were approved as presented.

2. Tree Removal Requests

There were no tree removal requests.

3. Congratulations to DPW for Holiday Decorations

Chairman Loughlin noted that the committee received the email from Ms. Bagley commending the City for the great work done on the downtown holiday tree and various other decorations, and he agreed. Mr. Rice said Mr. Baxter and his staff did an outstanding job and thanked Ms. Bagley for her email. Mr. Baxter noted that the Vaughan Mall was also decorated and worth checking out.

4. Old Business

Ms. Bagley asked if the 2020 Tree Planting List for 2021 would go forward. Mr. Rice said he anticipated moving forward with it this year, unless the pandemic was still in full bloom and Staff was down significantly. Mr. Baxter said the tree supplier was ready to go no matter what, and if everything stayed the way it was, then the trees would be planted.

5. New Business

Ms. Chag said the Portsmouth Garden Club identified the trees for the Little Harbor Loop Trail and got labels for the City's approval. She said the trees were six basic species, including a birch and a beech. She said the club originally wanted to have it done by the end of January but that Peter Britz from the Planning Department recommended that they go through the proper procedures. She said the club considered the tree identification and

labels as Phase 1 for the trail, and Phase 2 would involve going into the State of New Hampshire woods. She said she spoke with a woman named Kerry from New Hampshire Forestry and that she was on board. Mr. Dupere said Kerry was with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, which was different, but that the State had a chunk of land on the left side of Little Harbor. He said his facility did some of the educational programs with the Society and had identified several trees around the property, but that there were other nice trees that would be good to identify as part of the walking trail. He noted that his facility had a financial connection to Creek Farm and could invest some funding into the program. Ms. Chag thanked him and said she would be in touch.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 13, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 8 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Breault
Committee Recording Secretary