

**MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY
7:30 AM – Wednesday, August 13, 2008
City Hall, City Manager's Conference Room**

Call to Order:

Peter Loughlin, Chair	Richard Adams, Vice-Chair
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director	June Rogers, Member
Everett Kern, General Foreman	Carla Marvin

Also present were Eric Weinrieb and Jack Peduzzi, Altus Engineering, and Kenneth Hubbard.

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

1. **Acceptance of the Minutes** – Minutes of the July 9, 2008 meeting was accepted as presented.

2. **Tree Removal Requests:**

1140 South Street (high school side of South St. this side of Summit Ave.) The Chair stated this tree has 2 or 3 high trunks with very little vegetation. Everett Kern reported it is in poor shape, we have been trimming to try and save it, and at this point we're afraid a large limb will fall and hurt someone or do some severe damage. The tree has been tagged since July 24th.

MOTION made by Richard Adams for removal. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

3. **Proposed Tree Ordinance** – Richard Adams prepared a draft of the Proposed Tree Ordinance which the Chair e-mailed to the members. Dick Adams referred to the City rewriting Ordinances and that this Committee and not the Conservation Commission should prepare the Ordinance. The chair went through the Ordinance discussing the various topics and asked if there were any suggestions regarding VII. Prohibited Acts. Steve Parkinson stated under the law the utilities have the right to trim around their lines, but is not sure they require our approval or not and suggested the final draft be forwarded to the Legal Department. The Chair referred to IX. Removals, posting notices for tree removal was discussed changing it to 7 days from 10 days. The Chair referred to the percentage of tree removal occurring on a commercial or residential lot and felt this Committee should not be involved. Steve Parkinson referred to public trees vs. whether it falls with this committee, the Conservation Commission or Planning Board. Regulating amount and what trees to be removed from private property feels it would not fit into this Ordinance. We are trying to get at in the Ordinance is Municipal owned trees, street, parks, etc. Eric Weinrieb agreed with Mr. Parkinson and suggested discussion of trees over a certain diameter on private property. Richard Adams felts for example, there's a Washington Elm on someone's property, and there should be a way to protect a tree like that. Steve Parkinson stated that there have been times for specific trees that had provisions with the developer to preserve the tree(s) and there is somewhat of a process that maybe needs to be more formalized. Steve Parkinson suggested that the draft Ordinance be given to Attorney Sullivan for his review before referring to City Council who then would refer to Attorney Sullivan to bring back. It was decided that Richard Adams will make the suggested changes, give to the Chair and will be brought back at the next meeting.

Richard Adams feels that this Committee should have more of a standing than a Blue Ribbon Committee. Steve Parkinson stated that typically a committee of more standing than a Blue Ribbon Committee within the Ordinance is defined and the make up of the committee is defined.

4. **Lafayette School Renovations** – Jack Peduzzi gave an update regarding the neighbor who was present at the last meeting. Mr. Peduzzi went around the property with him showing him exactly what was going to be done and invited him to be there when one of the bidders to do the work was there. The neighbor was satisfied from the two visits of the property. The project is being planned to close on the 10th to the 12th of September and construction to begin September 15th providing we have your approval. Mr. Peduzzi informed the Committee he is going to ask the City if they can get in there early to remove trees and pruning because kids are getting in there and there is a lot of damage being done and there's a concern of the danger in the building with broken glass, etc. We advised the City who boarded up more windows but someone has been in there since the windows have been boarded and feels it is now a matter of public safety. When the shrubbery and trees are cut down it would be harder for people to hide and get into the building.

Eric Weinrieb presented the Committee with plans identifying trees that will be removed and replacements. They will be removing a Maple tree that is dying and replaced with a similar Maple.

The Chair questioned a crab apple tree on the Ward Place side shows it to be removed and asked if it were possible not to remove it.

Mr. Weinrieb responded that both trees on each side of the driveway are close to the pavement, one on the school side is outside the pavement limit, the one on the other side is just inside, being so close the root structure would be destroyed, the other one you'd have to change the flair which are important getting vehicles in there.

Steve Parkinson stated they are right there and need to go.

Richard Adams referred to a green ash that is a hardy urban tree, but not the most attractive.

Mr. Weinrieb responded the architect chose it because it is an urban tree and grows relatively fast and can be changed out for another species if you so chose.

Mr. Adams suggested that a Linden may be more attractive.

MOTION made by Richard Adams to approve the plans as presented. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

5. **Old Business:**

- (A) **Property at corner of South and Lincoln Ave.** – Ken Hubbard represents the property owner at 605 Lincoln Ave. formerly an apartment building which is in process of conversion to a 3 unit condo complex. There is a Northern Red Oak tree with a large growth coming out its side with a significant section of that growth that had been knocked or dropped off and there's a concern of some significant deterioration within the large knot area and feels that portion of the tree may be infected. The property owner will cooperate in any way if it is savable. Another concern is that there is one limb on the tree as well and directly over the front entrance. A concern was raised by a potential insurer who asked that we come to this committee and request either it be taken down or trimmed back to an appropriate level so it didn't create a hazard to the structure or anybody walking into the structure and not cause damage to the new siding, etc.

Everett Kern stated he and AJ looked at this tree, there are two trees here in question.

Richard Adams stated that he and AJ looked at the Silver Maple across the street from that one on the other corner of Park and Lincoln and AJ feels it definitely should come down. Then looked at the red oak and AJ felt the burl condition doesn't necessarily represent a problem.

Everett Kern stated the one at 61 Park St. has been addressed. There are 3 trees in question here. The one this gentleman is talking about was posted for a public hearing and we wanted to trim it versus remove it.

The silver maple AJ recommends removal.

Steve Parkinson suggested Everett look at the red oak, especially the branch over the front entrance of the property to see what effect cutting that back would have on the whole structure of the tree. His concern is over the Silver Maple if it's a hazard it has to come down now.

Everett Kern will look at the red oak.

June Rogers informed the Committee that the first small house going east on the left, there's a tree on that property which she thinks is the City's and wondering about the condition of it and whether or not it's appropriate to leave it there. June Rogers asked if they would look at it at the same time they are looking at the other trees on Park Street.

Steve Parkinson will have it looked at to see if it is a City tree.

Mr. Hubbard asked if there is a time frame in order to notify their potential insurer.

Everett Kern responded in a week.

- (B) **305 Union St.** - Richard Adams asked if the tree that is significantly leaning was going to be removed?
Steve Parkinson responded they will take a look at it.
- (C) **Sycamore Tree** — The tree is healthy and the Chair prepared a letter which he read to the Committee and photographed Sycamore trees to enclose with the letter.
- (D) **Peirce Island** – Steve Parkinson informed the committee that a Liberty Elm was planted there last Friday to celebrate the anniversary of Peirce Island.
- (E) The Chair received a letter from Nancy Carmer which he will circulate to the Committee.

7. **Next Meeting**—7:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Loughlin, Chair