

**MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY
7:30 AM – Wednesday, December 10, 2008
City Hall, City Manager's Conference Room**

Call to Order:

Richard Adams, Vice-Chair
John Bohenko, City Manager
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director
Everett Kern, General Foreman

A.J. Dupre, Community Forester
June Rogers, Member
Carla Marvin, Member

Richard Adams called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 a.m.

1. **Acceptance of the Minutes** – Minutes of the November 12, 2008 were accepted as presented.

2. **Tree Removal Requests:**

259 Miller Avenue – Dick Adams and AJ looked at the tree and both felt it was a potential hazard, it was severely unbalanced and should come down.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to remove the tree. Seconded by June Rogers. Motion passed.

3. **State Street Redevelopment Plans** – Steve Parkinson referred to the project for replacement of sewers and drain lines in the section of State Street from Pleasant Street to the Memorial Bridge approach. The Chair had asked for a drawing. What we have now was a conceptual drawing which doesn't produce well on the computer due to the level of detail. At this point bringing it to the Committee's attention to begin thinking about the species to be planted along that corridor. There are currently two trees along that whole stretch and we are looking at 20-25 trees going back into that stretch in various locations. Most of the work is underground, what you will see above ground is brick sidewalks, curbing, landscaping and period lighting. As it progresses, will keep the Committee apprised.

355 Union Street - Dick Adams referred to the 60 degree Linden tree that had been discussed at previous meetings and was not voted on. Both AJ and Dick looked at this tree and felt it is a potential hazard, not very attractive and should be removed. As it has not been posted Everett Kern will post it for the next meeting.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to post this tree to take up at the January meeting. Seconded by Everett Kern. Motion passed.

4. **Tree at Library for Former City Poet Laureate, Robert Dunn** – The City Manager stated that City Council referred to this Committee for a report back. One concern is with an apple tree and perhaps could find an appropriate substitute. The City Manager suggested this Committee look for a location on Library grounds and a species of tree and get back to Council by February the latest. Dick Adams thought a more decorative tree such as a Golden Chain tree and did not see a place for a large tree, certainly not one that litters and encouraged the members to go and look at the site and get some ideas of an appropriate species of tree.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to table until our January meeting and refer to Public Works Department to find an appropriate location on library property and have the Committee come back with species of tree. Seconded by June Rogers. Motion passed.

5. Old Business:

- A. Tree City** - Steve Parkinson referred to an e-mail sent to Peter Loughlin from Nancy Carmer who has been working on the Memorial for Clotilde Strauss and plans on having information for our January meeting.
- B.** Dan Rawling referred to the City's interest in developing entrances and gateways into the City. Mr. Rawling has ideas of enhancing the Middle St. plantings and thought it was a good winter project. While walking the area of Haymarket to the junction of Lafayette Rd Mr. Rawling counted 120-130 planting opportunities.
Steve Parkinson suggested he get together with Everett and Steve to produce a map for Dan to work on showing properties and areas where he thought plantings should be placed.
- C. Fall Plantings** – Dick Adams asked Everett Kern to inform the Committee of fall plantings. The Vice Chair thanked Dan Rawling for his gift of the six (6) Dogwood trees. Everett Kern will provide him with a list of where the Dogwoods were planted.
Everett responded that the trees from Salmon Falls Nursery were planted in various locations. All trees that were on the list to be planted this summer and fall have been planted.

Dan Rawling reported that the Tree Foundation planted 43 trees this fall including the Dogwoods were planted, a lot in the Cabot St. neighborhood and a few other sites.

Everett Kern stated that he has received six requests for trees within the past few weeks.

Richard Adams referred to Whipple Park at the intersection of Junkins Ave and Edward St. where there are a couple of box elders, one had fallen earlier this year and there is one leaning across the road.

AJ stated there is a nice Oak in the middle of the elders and if the elders came out, the Oak would fill in that spot.

- D. Tree City Application** – AJ asked if this is in the works as it is due at the end of the month. Steve Parkinson will check with Nancy Carmer.
- E. Tree Ordinance** - Richard Adams asked Elaine to make note in the minutes that an on-going Agenda item be the status of the Tree Ordinance, which is in the hands of the City Attorney.
- E. Margeson Apartments** – Dan Rawling suggested softening the area and make an outdoor area for people in the building. Right now their only opportunity is to go down and sit in the parking lot and he was thinking about working on a plan.
Steve Parkinson suggested he contact Joe Couture, Director of Portsmouth Housing Authority.
Dick Adams stated there are several dead trees on the right side of the building adjacent to the Masonic Parking Lot and asked if they were under the purview of the Housing Authority?
Steve Parkinson responded if they are on their property. If in the Parking Lot we would have to look at them as we are responsible for maintaining the parking lot.
The City Manager suggested Dan Rawling attend their public meetings and speak to his issue and suggest it be referred to the Tree Committee.

6. Next Meeting – 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 14, 2009

7. Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Adams, Vice-Chairman