

TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY COMMITTEE
City of Portsmouth

MINUTES

7:30 AM – Wednesday, February 10, 2016
Portsmouth City Hall

Members Present: Peter J. Loughlin, Chairman; Richard Adams, Vice-Chairman; Peter Rice, Director of Public Works; Todd Croteau, Public Works General Foreman; A. J. Dupere, Leslie Stevens, Joan Walker and Dan Umbro

Members Excused: Dennis Souto

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

He introduced the two new members, Joan Walker and Dan Umbro.

1. Minutes of the January 16, 2016 Meeting.

*The motion to approve the January 13, 2016 meeting minutes was **approved** by unanimous vote.*

2. Tree Removal Requests: NONE

3. Spring 2016 Tree Planting

Mr. Dupere stated that Todd Croteau (who was not yet present at the meeting) sent him the list. The Committee discussed the bid process. Chairman Loughlin said he wanted to ensure that the qualifications for the installers were more rigorous than in the past. They discussed whether only half of the burlap should be removed. Mr. Rice said that he would look into it.

Chairman Loughlin asked whether the process should be directed by a City representative or by a Trees and Greenery Committee representative. Mr. Rice suggested it be left as a City representative until it was redefined in the specification, at which time it could then be represented by the Committee. He said the specification had to be clear about who would be in charge of directing the contractor.

As an action item, Mr. Rice said he would ensure that a copy of the specifications was sent to the Committee members for review and comment.

4. Update on Activities of City Tree Crew

Mr. Rice stated that Mr. Croteau and his staff were busy responding to various emergency activities and other winter-related work. Chairman Loughlin remarked that he had run into Peter Bergh, who was working with Mr. Croteau on removing trees that were approved for removal.

5. Report on Annual Report

Chairman Loughlin said the City Manager requested that he do a presentation to the City Council on the annual report, which he would do on March 7.

6. Old Business

Vice-Chair Adams reminded the Committee of the minutes from the previous meeting that had noted several pending tree removals in the Hillside Drive and Greenleaf Avenue area. Ms. Stevens said she emailed a list to Mr. Croteau, who said he didn't remember getting it but would check. Mr. Croteau said they were going through the formal RFP process and that the Committee would be made aware of the Statement of Work, the specifications on how they wanted the work done, and the list of trees.

Ms. Stevens said Mr. and Mrs. Bogardus had requested that a Higan cherry tree planted, and Mr. Croteau said that it was on the list.

7. New Business

Mr. Rice said a new request for the Tree City USA Certification was submitted and noted that there may be a higher level called the Growth Award that they could try for. He said he'd report back on it. Chairman Loughlin noted that it was thanks to the Public Works Division and Mr. Croteau that Portsmouth had received the designation for the last fifteen years or so.

Ms. Walker mentioned that there were places on Thornton Street, where she lived, that needed trees, and Chairman Loughlin told her to let him know the specifics. Mr. Croteau said that two trees were recently planted on Thornton Street.

Chairman Loughlin said he had not received the final list from the tour of tree plantings that the Committee had done, and Ms. Stevens said she sent it to everyone but would resend it.

Mr. Croteau noted that Public Works removed 28 trees and planted around 55 the previous year. Chairman Loughlin said he needed that information for his report to the City.

8. Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 9, 2016

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Breault
Recording Secretary