

TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY COMMITTEE
City of Portsmouth

MINUTES

7:30 AM – Wednesday, December 14, 2016
Portsmouth City Hall

Members Present: Peter Loughlin, Chairman; Richard Adams, Vice-Chairman; Peter Rice, Department of Public Works; Leslie Stevens; A. J. Dupere; Dennis Souto; Joan Walker; and Dan Umbro. City Arborist Corin Hallowell was also present.

Members Excused:

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

1. Acceptance of Minutes of the November 9, 2016 meeting.

The November 9, 2016 meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

2. Tree Removal Requests:

Rockland Street, Across from Elwyn Avenue (DPW Request)

Mr. Croteau said that the request was part of the upgrade to the tennis court and walkway. Mr. Hallowell said the tree was perfectly healthy. Mr. Rice explained that a compliant sidewalk was necessary to meet grade requirements and that it didn't look like it was possible to save the tree. However, he said he would look at the situation again and try to save the tree.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. Ms. Walker moved that the tree remain if possible. Mr. Souto seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Hillside Drive, corner of Greenleaf Avenue

Mr. Hallowell said that the resident asked to have the healthy tree removed because it was in the way of vehicles pulling out at the corner. Mr. Rice said the DPW wanted to reconfigure the roadway and force traffic down to the new signal but would probably run into resistance from the residents and other citizens. He said they would make it a one-way road because it was a dangerous intersection, and their intent was to restrict traffic in that area. Vice-Chair Adams said he had owned property in the area and knew that drivers tore down Lafayette Road onto Greenleaf Avenue, making it difficult for other drivers to make a left turn. He said people just had to learn that it wasn't the way to do it. Mr. Hallowell said it was a shame to remove the tree.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. Vice-Chair Adams moved that the tree be spared. Ms. Stevens seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

3. List of 2017 Planting Sites (Updated by Leslie, 11-15-16)

Chairman Loughlin asked whether there were any changes or additions to the list. Mr. Halloran said he looked at the additional sites and found that several trees had already been planted. He briefly reviewed the following:

- 203 Cass Street had trees planted in 2016;
- 54 Lincoln Avenue's owners planted a new tree and preferred not to have a City one;
- 768-772 Middle Road had a red oak planted in 2016;
- 129 Miller Avenue had two red oaks planted during the summer;
- 307 Wibird Street finished planting;
- 103 Woodlawn Circle had three trees planted on their own and didn't want more.

Ms. Stevens asked about 27 to 91 Sherburne Avenue. Mr. Hallowell said they wanted another shade tree. Ms. Stevens said she'd look into it.

Chairman Loughlin asked whether there were additions or subtractions to the list. Ms. Stevens said that she, Vice-Chair Adams, and Mr. Dupere would look at the sites for species after the meeting and said they would come up with one option for each site. She asked whether the tree species should be in the letter, and Mr. Rice said the species should not be included because of flexibility reasons.

After some discussion, it was decided that a 'street' tree would be referenced in the letter instead of a 'shade' tree, which implied a big tree to most people.

Chairman Loughlin stated that the letter would go out by the end of January and would be sent to everyone on the list, with the exception of the ones that Mr. Hallowell removed.

4. Draft Letter to Homeowners

See above.

5. Dick Adams' List of Recommended Trees

Chairman Loughlin noted that everyone had a role in putting the list together and said that Vice-Chair Adams compared two tree lists and that they were close. He asked whether bidding would be done before June, and Vice-Chair Adams said it was doubtful. Mr. Hallowell said it depended on how many people responded to the letter. Ms. Stevens asked whether the letter should note a timeframe for people to respond, especially if people didn't want a tree. After some discussion, it was decided that January 31st would be the deadline and that the letter would be generated from the DPW office. Mr. Rice said he would have Chairman Loughlin sign the letter before it went out.

6. Town of Durham Recommended Landscaping Species

No discussion – informational only.

7. Town of Durham Recommended Landscaping Measures

No discussion – informational only.

8. Old Business

There was no old business.

9. New Business

Vice-Chair Adams said he noted lavish quantities of salt as he walked up the hill to City Hall earlier. Mr. Croteau explained that it was due to the recent black ice situation and that the lack of moisture on the ground caused a crystallized product. Vice-Chair Adams asked whether a sand mixture was used and was told that it wasn't. Chairman Loughlin asked whether the salt could be focused more on the street rather than several feet onto a lawn. Mr. Rice replied that the DPW normally puts down brine and waits for snow to fall before applying salt, but since the last application was due to black ice, there was nothing to hold it in place, so it bounced.

10. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 11, 2017

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Breault
Recording Secretary