

**MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY
7:30 AM – Wednesday, November 14, 2007
City Hall, City Manager's Conference Room**

Call to Order:

Peter Loughlin, Chair	A.J. Dupre, Community Forester
John Bohenko, City Manager	June Rogers, Member
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director	Richard Adams, Member
Everett Kern, General Foreman	

Also present were Fred Engelbach and Mr. Rollins.

Peter Loughlin called the meeting to order at approximately 7:35 a.m.

1. Acceptance of the Minutes – Minutes of the October 10, 2007 meeting were accepted as presented.

2. Tree Removal Requests

- 149 Cass Street – Sherwood Rollins—2 Norways – Mr. Rollins reported that Thomas Berger of Green Art did an evaluation and presented the Committee with copies. The Chair gave the Committee a moment to review the evaluation. June Rogers stated felt they were good looking healthy trees and could use some pruning. Richard Adams felt Mr. Berger made a reasonable case against the Norway Maples, but at the same time we have a long standing policy not to remove healthy trees. Steve Parkinson stated that we have a standing policy of not taking down healthy trees. The trees are in need of pruning and we can do that. We have been consistent time and time again on removal of healthy trees. The City Manager and Everett Kern agreed. **MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to deny the request for removal. Seconded by June Rogers. Motion passed.
- The Chair stated he will look at this and speak with Mr. Berger to see what flexibility there may be, but we have a real concern about losing streetscape trees.
- 23 Whipple Court – Leonard Fortier—6' Linden – **MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to deny request. Seconded by Everett Kern. Motion passed.
- 243 Wibird Street – Christine Blonda—Maple – **MOTION** made by City Manager to table. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.
- Beech Tree at Old Library on Islington – Everett stated that half the tree was taken down a few years ago. **MOTION** made by Richard Adams to remove. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

3. Portsmouth Parade Mall Renovations – Planting – Patrick Crimmins, Appledore Engineering – Josh Anderson from Cathartes sponsors of the development, introduced Patrick Crimmins and Loren Bryant with Sasakee Assoc. architects.

Patrick Crimmins stated they are here as part of the Planning Board and TAC's stipulations for the Parade Mall Redevelopment approval for the proposed vegetation in the Deer St. Maplewood and Hanover Street plans. Mr. Crimmins referred to the plans of the existing Parade Mall Office site and explained their proposal for the northern tier which is creating a block of a very pedestrian friendly mixed use development, consisting of 1st floor retail component, hotel component and proposed building 2 extended stay, residential on the upper floors of proposed Building 1 and office use on the upper stories of proposed buildings 3 and 4. A one-way broadwalk, a pedestrian friendly wide sidewalk, wide street with crosswalk in the center of the site. There is an underground garage

component being constructed beneath the site making it difficult for a lot of planting. There is some limited landscaping and flowering pots along the broadwalk and one large tree as a centerpiece in the center of the broadwalk and some trees in a lawn area adjacent to the stairs connecting the rear hotel and residential parking with the broadwalk. Also proposing, 4 white birches and 1 red maple trees. On-site planting is constraint due to the underground garage and the next place is the City right-of-way, the sidewalks. Had numerous meeting with Public Works Department and Dave Desfosses worked with them on where the planters would be relocated to avoid contact with utilities, place meters in the proper locations, historic lighting in the typical spacing for the City. Five double planters on Deer St.

Loren Bryant added there is under story vegetation in all planters.

Mr. Crimmins explained the plantings and the size and placements of the planters and showed the Committee the detailed plans showing the tree guards to protect the trees.

The Chair recommended the caliber on the street trees be not less than 3.5” and that they look into the root area of street trees.

AJ reported there will be a display of the grading system and the structural soil at the Urban Forestry Center this weekend.

Mr. Crimmins will come back to this Committee with another submission of an alternate for single stem white birch and more of a definition on the tree pit and planting method to be used on Maplewood and Hanover for final approval.

The Chair thanked them for being present.

4. Tree Inventory Report—GIS—Jason Wise-Fred Engelbach – Mr. Engelbach has been away and will meet with Jason Wise and this will be placed on the Agenda for next month.

5. Clotilde Strauss Memorial Plantings – Sites were discussed and the Chair suggested planting a tree in Haven Park near where the Camperdown Elm was removed. Steve Parkinson stated the traffic island near the Blue Fin Fish Market was the closest to her residence.

Richard Adams stated that candidate signs are up throughout the City. Steve Parkinson stated this is a Legal Dept. matter. The Chair stated that it was that you couldn't have political signs on public property, now it is you can have them on public property with some limited restrictions.

Steve Parkinson suggested looking at the whole park for a location and there may be some other location and will bring it back next month and tie it into Arbor Day.

6. Old Business

Sheffield St. – Everett Kern stated the homeowner went to see him with leaves, she stated there was white bark on the tree and that I would bring it up again at the meeting.

AJ stated it naturally occurs, it is the immature bark underneath it and has gone out numerous times to see this tree.

6. New Business

AJ reminded everybody of the Festival of Trees this weekend at the Urban Forestry Center and the structural soil will be on display with a full size model.

Dog Park – Richard Adams asked if the work on the dog park is done?
Steve Parkinson responded as far as he knew “yes”.

Next Meeting—7:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 12, 2007

8. Adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Peter J. Loughlin-Chairman