

**MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE  
TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY  
7:30 AM – Wednesday, October 8, 2008  
City Hall, City Manager's Conference Room**

**DRAFT**

**Call to Order:**

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

Also present were Marta Tyler and Dan Rawling.

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

The Chair asked the members to introduce themselves.

1. **Acceptance of the Minutes** – Minutes of the September 10, 2008 were accepted as presented.

2. **Tree Removal Requests:**

**57 & 79 Haven Road** – Everett Kern reported when they went to trim the tree, the tree was much worse than realized.

Sue Hubbard of Haven Road called asking to have some dead limbs removed and was pleased that was done, but not happy that the tree in front of 57 is being removed and wondered the reason it was being removed. Everett Kern responded the extent of rot in the tree and suggested a second opinion and to table. Ms. Hubbard referred to the rot and the pool of water that gathers in the hole and in the past has removed some of the water and will continue to do so.

Jackie Allison, 79 Haven Road requested the removal of the tree at the end of her driveway which she is in favor of. There are 6 or 7 Silver Maples in front of our two properties. When she saw that both trees had been tagged, in front of 57 and is here to see if they both need to come out, it was not her intent that the one in front of 57 looks healthy. 57 was a recommendation from the person who trimmed the tree. The tree in front of 79 definitely needs to be removed. There is a cavity in the tree at 57 that does collect water.

Sue Hubbard presented the Committee with a letter from a neighbor which Peter Loughlin read the letter from Jeff Demers of Haven Rd who opposes cutting down the one at 57 Haven and supports cutting the one at 79 Haven.

Peter Mason inquired what happens to the wood that's removed and asked if it was possible to have it for firewood?

Everett Kern responded he would leave it road side taking away any brush, not delivery to any facility.

The City Manager stated he would have a week to remove it otherwise the City will pick it up.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to removed the tree at 79 Haven Road. Seconded by Richard Adams. Motion passed.

**MOTION** made by Everett Kern to table until next meeting the tree at 57 Haven Road for a second opinion. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

**60 Lincoln Avenue** – Richard Adams stated he has watched this tree slowly die, it is hollow and if it should fall over it will fall on the home.

**MOTION** made by Dick Adams to remove the tree. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

**700 Middle Street** – Mike Meyers is interested in what was being recommended. Everett Kern responded his concern is the way it is situated and leaning over the roadway, the whole backside of the tree has been lost and what left is leaning towards the roadway. It is a big tree and does not want anyone injured. Mr. Meyers does not have an issue with the removal as long as something is put back in his spot.

Everett Kern stated there is space for additional two trees.

Mr. Meyers stated the tree has been hit numerous times by cars and his home has been hit by two drunk drivers over the last few years, so having the tree there is sort of a safety issue for his home and family.

Steve Parkinson referred to the tree that fell on Church St. it was a healthy looking tree but the root structure could not support the tree and has a real concern with trees leaning over the street and have lost all their balance from previous cuttings because of decay.

The City Manager suggested putting in the motion that two trees be replanted in that area and we consult Mr. Meyers on location of where the two trees should be replaced.

**MOTION** made by John Bohenko for removal with the provision that two 2.5” - 3” caliber trees be replanted and that location be consulted with the owner of 700 Middle St. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

Mr. Meyers requested the wood.

**740 Middle Road** – Everett Kern reported a major limb was lost approx. two weeks ago, the rest of the tree is in very sad shape and is leaning toward the property to the right and if it goes will definitely do damage.

**MOTION** made by Richard Adams to remove the tree. Seconded by June Rogers. Motion passed.

- 3. Salmon Falls Nursery Donation of 15 Ash Trees** – Everett Kern reported the total is now 24 trees. They are Ash, Sugar Maple, and Japanese Lilac. Hopefully all the trees will make it, but it is late in the season. They are good size specimen and the total value of this donation is in the \$10,000 area. He cleans out his inventory every year and donates. They are all 2.5 – 3.5” caliber, the City will need to plant them. There are still 5 trees to be picked up in So. Berwick.

The City Manager asked, if possible to put on the City Council Agenda for acceptance of this donation, a letter from the Tree Committee asking the Council to a these 24 trees and ask the gentleman if he wants a letter from the City indicating the value, we can give him a letter of donation, the City Manager will sign the letter.

Everett would like to meet with committee members for site recommendations, the sooner the better. He would prefer not to put in front of residences in case they don’t make it, place them in parks.

The Chair stated he has some thoughts and will contact Everett. The Chair will prepare a letter to City Council and to Salmon Falls.

- 4. Proposed Tree Ordinance** – The Chair reported he sent a letter to the City Attorney with questions that came up at the last meeting.

- 5. New Business** – Marta Tyler, Middle Road stating she is in favor of having the tree cut down at 740 Middle Road.

The Chair reported that the Committee just voted to recommend to DPW that it be removed.

Everett kern asked if she would like the wood. Ms. Tyler responded “yes”.

June Rogers asked if the City owned the land across from Bowl-A-Rama by by-pass coming towards City, as the weeds are not cut down.

Steve Parkinson stated we don't own any of that, it is State owned and the state does not take care of the weeds along the curb lines and roads. The City has a program where we take care of it. The City Manager suggested that people talk to their state reps when they see one.

Dan Rawling asked if the City accepted tree donations, he currently has some dogwoods he would like to donate to the City and would like an overall plan of an assessment or targeted zones you're working on in the City.

The Chair responded we don't have an overall plan. As people indicate a desire for trees we look for spaces where trees are needed.

Steve Parkinson added that we gear to go into the areas where we have heavily taken out a lot of trees.

Mr. Rawling asked if the Chair though it would be desirable to develop an overall plan.

The Chair responded that we had a tree inventory that we have been working on, but not sure how far we have gotten. Desirable yes,

Dan Rawling stated that he is very interested in the work you are doing and would like to get involved in some way, either by participating in some volunteer basis and submit it to the Committee or in a more official capacity, work with Committee members and develop an overall planting strategy for the City as well as assessments. Stated that a lot of improvement could be done by getting a lot of property owners to participate. Mr. Rawling stated he may be in a position to facilitate trees being available for planting and stated something a little more official in an overall plan would be great. Would like to become involved and do anything to facilitate this.

The City Manager suggested he give Elaine his contact information for her to send an e-mail to the members of the Committee.

The City Manager stated that the meetings are posted on the website.

Mr. Rawling stated that he has five 7 ft. cousas in his driveway looking for homes and asked if there was a way to donate them. Recently he planted one at the corner of Middle and Union St. where the tree was cut down this weekend. Also is seeking to get some private property owners around there to do something.

Steve Parkinson suggested that Everett Kern get in touch with Mr. Rawling regarding the trees.

The City Manager suggested that we as a Committee try to have a citizens group we can work with and encourage people to come to us with their proposed places for planting and work on it from there. Perhaps a press release we can work on that if they have an interest in planting trees and want to donate, they should advise the tree committee. The idea is to try and coordinate what you're doing as we don't want people planting trees everywhere. Give it some thought and see how we can approach it in a positive way. It would be nice if this Committee could sponsor and get some awareness. Perhaps get the Levenson Room, have a presentation, publicize it and get public awareness and interest.

**7. Next Meeting – 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, November 12, 2008**

**8. Adjourned**

Respectfully submitted,

Peter J. Loughlin-Chairman