

**MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY
7:30 AM – Wednesday, September 9, 2009
City Hall, City Manager's Conference Room**

Call to Order:

Richard Adams, Vice-Chair
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director
Everett Kern, General Forman

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

Also present were Dan Rawling, 411 Middle Street, Howard Mangold, 1275 Maplewood Ave., and Susan Lewis 1238 Maplewood Ave.

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

1. **Acceptance of the Minutes** – Minutes of the August 12, 2009 meeting were accepted with the corrected spelling of Mr. Gewehr's name.
2. Dan Rawling of Rawling Design who represents a local Tree Foundation presented the Committee with preliminary plans for Middle St. beginning at the South Street intersection to Haymarket Sq. and the area around the Margeson Apts. Mr. Rawling's goal is to beautify this major entry corridor into Portsmouth and to relieve the bleakness of the area around the Margeson apts. with little terrace sitting areas and plantings. He has discussed this with Director of Portsmouth Housing Authority. The Director was very receptive, while the Building Manager had reservations. Rawling's proposal would also mean speaking with private property owners for their permission for plantings to take place along Middle Street. He presented the Committee with a draft letter explaining his mission together with concept sketches of some streetscape thoughts for their neighborhood and property. Would like permission to add the endorsement of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Trees and Public Greenery. Mr. Rawling suggested funding from different sources.

Steve Parkinson suggested that he work with the Portsmouth Housing Authority.

The Chair suggested addressing this next month after the Committee has a chance to read his letter.

Steve Parkinson and the Chair thanked him for his work.

3. **Tree Removal Requests/Proposals:**
 - a. **94 Mendum Ave.** – AJ reported that he looked at this tree and observed another limb that came off ten or more years ago, hard to see from the ground and there is a good column of rot down the inside of the tree from the top, Dick Adams spoke with the property owner nearest the tree who feels it represents somewhat of a hazard, is eager to have it removed and also eager to take care of the replacement.
MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to remove. Seconded by Carla Marvin. Motion passed.
 - b. **Elwyn Ave., corner of Lincoln** – Dick Adams stated it is clearly dead.
MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to remove. Seconded by June Rogers. Motion passed.
 - c. **Four Norways on Rockland St.** – Dick Adams reported they are all in bad shape, as are virtually all of the maples lining this part of Rockland Street. The Chair stated rather than take them all down at once, remove the worst ones now and replace them in the spring.
MOTION made by June Rogers to take them down. Seconded by Carla Marvin. Motion passed.

- d. **123 Oxford Ave.** – AJ reported there is a lot of rot down the center of the tree and it could fall back on the house.

MOTION made by AJ Dupere to remove the tree. Seconded by June Rogers.
Motion passed.

4. **Discussion on Memorial Tree Policy and City Tree Ordinance** – Discussion was delayed until the City Manager could be present.

5. **Old Business:**

Woodbury/Maplewood Ave. – Removal of two Apple trees and the Maple tree- Howard Mangold referred to the removal of these trees and make more of a park area there.

Dick Adams stated that it seems to be an ideal spot for a little pocket park. Susan Lewis presented the committee with a photograph of a concept of what they might be trying to do. With this Committee's advice on the best way to go, would like to add to this area and not leave it barren.

Looking at doing benches, bricks, plantings and thinking of putting something behind the fence to soften it up, have taller trees. A goal is to have a place for people at Betty's Dream and elsewhere to go and sit, will be wheelchair accessible.

Steve Parkinson stated we would need a drawing to present to the City Manager.

After the trees are down Mr. Mangold will prepare the drawings and come back with their proposal.

Susan Lewis feels the concept of a little park in that area would be better for the entire neighborhood and envisions a spot where it's welcoming to people coming off the highway, an introduction to Maplewood Acres and would be an attractive area with an urn in the center, which would be in keeping with the Frank Jones Estate, as in that very spot he had a massive fountain.

Dan Rawling will take a look at the area and likes the idea of neighborhood groups making gathering spots and people looking at the overall landscape

The trees need to be posted prior to voting. Everett Kern stated that the apple trees are in poor shape.

Steve Parkinson stated we need to legally post them, have the meeting on October 14th and as long as the Committee agrees, the trees will come down.

Dick Adams stated it looks like a great idea and thanked them and looking forward to working with them.

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

7. **Adjourned** at 8:10 a.m.