

**MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY
7:30 AM – Wednesday, August 12, 2009
City Hall, City Manager's Conference Room**

DRAFT

Call to Order:

Peter Loughlin Chair
Richard Adams, Vice-Chair
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director

Everett Kern, General Forman
A.J. Dupere, Community Forester
June Rogers, Member
Carla Marvin, Member

Also present were Police Chief Dave "Lou" Ferland, Howard Mangold, Mr. & Mrs. James Horrigan and Mr. Gewher.

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

1. **Acceptance of the Minutes** – Minutes of the July 8, 2009 meeting were accepted as presented.

2. **Tree Removal Requests:**
 - 55 Elwyn Avenue – Mr. Horrigan explained that the tree sits on both property lines at 55 and 47 Elwyn and has no idea why the request was made, the tree looks healthy. Mrs. Horrigan reported that both trees are beautiful, important to the block as they give a lot of shade, does need trimming back from the wires, and when trimmed would be a beautiful healthy tree.
Everett Kern reported he heard from the resident living to the right of the tree who was concerned with how the weight was carried by the tree and asked for removal.
The Chair stated that Micum Davis looked at this.
MOTION made by Richard Adams to leave the tree alone except for trimming. Seconded by Everett Kern. Motion passed.
Mr. Gaylord arrived with his young son and stated he agreed with not removing the tree and to do some trimming. It is on the property line between 47 and the owners who made the request for removal. He understands their reasoning as it overhangs on one side where the utility lines go into their houses. Feels with proper trimming around that side getting some of the lower branches impeding on the wires out of the way. Offers quite a bit of afternoon shade and requests that the tree not be removed.
 - 123 Oxford Avenue (Photo #48) – June Rogers feels that if the limb was cut off it would be ok.
Steve Parkinson stated that the limb on the opposite side was taken off and is concerned that everything is leaning on the back side.
Richard Adams recommended deferring this until next month and place on the Agenda.
 - 670 Kearsarge Way – Everett Kern stated no doubt in his mind, June Rogers concurred.
MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to remove. Seconded by June Rogers. Motion passed.
 - 188 Lincoln Avenue (Photo #52) – **MOTION** made by Richard Adams to remove. Seconded by Everett Kern. Motion passed.
 - 48 Aldrich Road (Photo #50) – **MOTION** made by Richard Adams to remove. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

3. **Discussion of additional tree/shrub removal** (trees not posted) -
 - 134 Lincoln Avenue (see letter from Robert G. Webster) – Richard Adams stated the tree is actually on Elwyn Ave. There are two Norway Maples, one is dead and the other is salvageable and needs trimming. The dead tree should be posted and will be placed on next month's Agenda.

- Portsmouth Police Dept. (see letter from Police Chief David “Lou” Ferland) – Police Chief Ferland asked for help on what to do with the shrubs in front of the Police Station that have grown absorbing a parking space, obscures view out of upstairs window and also covers the Police Department sign. There is a small patch of ground behind the shrubs. Feels something should be replaced there, either a bench, small shrubs that don’t grow tall, something to soften the brick.
AJ stated they are trees, not shrubs, and if left will continue to get much larger pushing 30 ft. tall .
Steve Parkinson stated they are encroaching not only the parking space but also on the building, retaining moisture in that corner of the building causing maintenance problems and suggested removal and to look at an appropriate planting for replacement.
MOTION made by Richard Adams to remove the trees and evaluate what space is available and what would be appropriate for replacement. Seconded by June Rogers. Motion passed.

4. **Woodbury/Maplewood Ave.** - Mr. Howard Mangold was present to discuss the issues of trees between Woodbury and Maplewood, the possible removal of two apple trees and one Maple. The problem is the branches are crashing down, many crab apples are there and the tree is encroaching on the property next door. There is a resident in a wheelchair and his wheelchair gets stuck in the apples. Mr. Mangold has adopted this space and wishes to clear the whole area and place flowers there with a bench for people to sit and hopefully people from Betty’s Dream can wander over there. Everett Kern stated there has always been a problem there with apples and the lilac took a heavy toll. Mr. Mangold has been a landscape designer for 40 years and wants to approach the project with the neighborhood to see what they would like to do. If nothing else they need trimming and possible removal. Mr. Mangold is looking for directions and thoughts. The Chair will place this on next month’s Agenda to allow the Committee to go out and look at this.
Everett Kern stated that the small Norway there should be tagged and a Norway that’s in rough shape as well as the apple tree, should be tagged.
5. **Final Report on City’s Spring Tree Planting** – Everett Kern gave a report on the spring tree planting and a copy of the report is attached to and made a part of the minutes.
6. **Update on tree planting as part of Lower State Street Improvements** (see attached photos) – Steve Parkinson indicated that the tree planting would probably not occur until at least the fall of 2010 and maybe not until the spring of 2011. The location and type of trees and protection for the trees will be brought back to the Trees & Greenery Committee.
7. **Clotilde Strauss Memorial Planting Area** – Steve Parkinson provided the Committee with sketches of the plans for the planting area that were done by Richardson Associates. Mr. Parkinson is looking into getting measurements and is carrying this project forward.
8. **Discussion on Memorial Tree Policy** – Discussion was delayed until the City Manager could be present.
9. **Old Business:**
Dick Adams again inquired about the status of the City Tree Ordinance.
10. **New Business:**
 - a. Hawthorne Street – Everett Kern would like a second opinion. He does not see anything wrong with the tree. We can take care of the trimming of that large limb.
11. **Next Meeting** – 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 9, 2009