

**MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY
7:30 AM – Wednesday, July 14, 2010
City Hall, City Manager's Conference Room**

Members Present: Peter Loughlin, Chairman A.J. Dupere, Community Forester
Richard Adams, Vice-Chair June Rogers, Member
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director Carla Marvin, Member
Everett Kern, General Forman

Also present was Steve Pesci.

The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 a.m.

1. **Acceptance of the Minutes** – Minutes of the June 9, 2010 meeting were accepted as presented.
2. **Tree Removal Requests:**
 - **169 Essex Avenue** – Everett Kern stated it is not in good shape, the homeowner requested removal. AJ reported it has been pruned hard over the years and there is not a lot left to be pruned to keep it going. **MOTION** made by Carla Marvin recommending removal. Seconded by June Rogers. Motion passed.
 - **24 Kensington Street** – a Sugar Maple and Everett Kern reported that Mark Tanner recommended removal. **MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to remove. Seconded by Richard Adams. Motion passed.
 - **Langdon Park (across from Connors Cottage)** – Everett Kern reported the majority of the tree is dead. **MOTION** made by Richard Adams to remove. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

The Chair reported that the Ginkgo tree in the Masonic Parking Lot is dead. Everett Kern stated that the maintenance of trees is our responsibility. Richards Adams asked if we could plant replacement trees there?

3. **Update on Lower State Street Improvements** – Steve Parkinson stated there is nothing new to report at this time.
4. **Update on Sycamore Tree at 23 Sheffield Road** – The chair referred to the letter he sent to Mrs. Fernald with a copy to the members.
5. **200 Thornton Street Solar Panels** – AJ reported both trees can be pruned, but not sure of the extent needed. They are healthy with no obvious signs of rot or splits in them. Would not recommend cutting the tops of the trees off. You can prune up to 30% when needed but will definitely slow growth. These trees are good and healthy and should respond well and will progressively continue to grow in height. Richard Adams feels we will be facing this more as we go forward. If they are taken down, smaller replacement trees should be planted that are more suitable for the site. Steve Pesci stated he is willing to contribute to the cost of trimming the trees so that he will attain the 80% sun which the state requires for full tax credit. Steve Parkinson referred to who would do the trimming, qualified person to do that extensive trimming? It may require climbing which the City does not do and will necessitate hiring an outside tree service. Whoever does this wants it done under the direction of AJ. AJ will meet with Mr. Pesci's and his engineers and will work with Mark Tanner.

Steve Parkinson suggested rather than wait a month till next meeting, if the outcome is trimming and feasible whether hiring someone or City do it, we will just proceed.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to proceed with trimming the tree (either by the City or hiring outside after AJ looks at it, the cost to be split with Mr. Pesci. Seconded by Richard Adams. Motion passed.

6. **Letter from Atlantic Heights organization re plantings** – The Chair referred to the letter from the neighborhood requesting native high bush blueberries in the outer ring and low bush in the center ring of Hanscom Park replacing the Stephanandra that was planted there which is overgrown covering the granite posts.

Steve Parkinson stated that we should speak with David Moore as the original work was funded through the CDBG program.

Steve Parkinson suggested referring this to Public Works for report back in conjunction with CDBG and if these bushes can be transplanted, we'll transplant them to another location.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to refer back to Public Works to report back at the next meeting in conjunction with Community Development.

7. **Old Business** –

Lincoln Ave. Project - Steve Parkinson referred to the Lincoln Ave project where the original plans were for removal of twenty trees and has now been reduced to four, maintaining the existing curb lines in most areas to eliminate the need to remove the trees and will provide the members with copies. The project has been bid and will start within the next month.

8. **New Business** –

169 Essex Ave. - AJ referred to the tree next to 169 Essex Ave which has a few dead limbs, suggesting that when Mark does the removal to prune this one as well. The reason the tree is failing is the parked car which parks underneath it.

Everett Kern reported that most (excluding three trees) of the new trees have been planted and will email the list of trees to the Chair.

Haymarket Square - AJ reported that in front of the law office one of the two elms died rather abruptly. All the rest of them have something going on with them including the ones on Middle St., curling leaves with something inside the leaves and does not know what it is. AJ called the UNH pathology lab and will give them a sample.

The Chair stated that tree died within a matter of days.

AJ reported that the one across the street has been horribly pruned, someone took something (it was not a saw or pruning tool) and started whacking at the limbs.

AJ stated that autopsies can be performed on trees. AJ will look at the tree once it is pulled out of the ground to see what happened with the tree.

360 Wibird Street – There is a large dead limb overhanging the road and house.

Richard Adams reported a dead oak tree not too far from the I-95 overpass on Woodbury Ave,

10. **Next Meeting - Wednesday, August 11, 2010**

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Boucas