

**MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY
7:30 AM – Wednesday, August 11, 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
Everett Kern, General Forman

Also present were Dan Hartrey Facility Project Manager, Kathie Lynch, Lisa DeStefano, Gordon Leedy and Steve Pesci.

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

1. **Acceptance of the Minutes** – Minutes of the July 14, 2010 meeting were accepted as presented.

2. **Proposal to Expand Hislop Park Little League Field at Atlantic Heights** (Kathie Lynch, LL President – Reported that the Portsmouth Little League Program is interested in converting Hislop Field to an intermediate use field, currently a little league size field with 46 ft pitch distance, 60' backpack and 200' outfield. A pilot program is being run for the older age group (12 year olds) to move to a 50-70 field. The fences need to be moved back. There are a number of trees and vegetation that need to be removed and some mitigation done to maintain force of nature and allow fences to be moved back. The site plan will be done by Eric Weinrieb. Ms. Lynch asked if this committee could support the program in suggesting how to mitigate any of the losses that will occur if they are able to move the fences back.
The Chair suggested keeping in touch with Everett.

2. **Middle School Plantings** – Douglas K. Reed, AIA, JCJ Architect (letter, plan, Street Tree Fact Sheets and Parrott Avenue photo attached) – Gordon Leedy VHB landscape architect and project manager presented drawings of the existing site showing Parrott Ave., Rogers St. and the existing building, Alumni Field and the Public Library and the existing parking for both Library and School use. The proposed plan is to remove existing portions of the building back to the original facilities as shown on the drawings and do a fairly significant addition to the Middle School including a proposed youth recreation facility separate from the school facility proper, reconstruct parking area for use by both Library and School and reconfigure drive to go around the new addition and maintain existing service drive and courtyard in the back. Buses will go in and around, queue and transit around and exit Rogers St. There have been ongoing drainage problems causing parking lot to flood, poor drainage on the site necessitating raising the grades 1.5 - 2' providing room for underground storage and water quality treatment facilities. They are proposing to establish a pedestrian area to the south and west of the new addition, looking at pavers to control water flows. As a result of raising the area will need to remove the Norway Maple trees along Parrot Ave in front of the lot replacing them with Sugar Maples and a hedge. Mr. Leedy indicated that a drainage line had to be located near the Norway Maples and this would negatively impact the roots of the existing trees. The Chair expressed concern about removing existing healthy trees for new plantings. Dick Adams expressed concern about the use of Sugar Maples because of their sensitivity to the effects of road salt. The fence will be removed and not replaced. The existing stairway will be removed accessing the library and replace with a graded walkway with handicap accessibility from

the parking area to the side entrance of the library. There are a number of trees, mostly large Black Locust which will be saved.

The trees on Parrott Ave. and Rogers St. side of the existing school are not being removed.

Everett Kern informed Mr. Leedy he wanted to make him aware that there is a Memorial tree, an apple, near the Black Locust.

Steve Parkinson stated at this time this is going through the site review process.

Steve Parkinson suggested providing a blow up of the area and a cross section and will return at the next meeting.

- 4. Deer/Market Streets Improvements** (photos attached) – The Chair on behalf of the Committee would like to write a letter to the City Council congratulating Public Works for the extension of the sidewalk, it is a great entrance to the City.
MOTION made by Dick Adams authorizing the Chair to write a letter to City Council congratulating Public Works. Seconded by AJ Dupere. Motion passed.
- 5. Lower State Street Improvements** – The Chair referred to a plan showing a bump out near Rosa’s and the concern of planting a tree there, suggesting a smaller flowering tree to add some color there.
Steve Parkinson suggested looking at a lower flowering tree in those locations and to e-mail Dave Desfosses copy to Steve Parkinson and make sure the site distance isn’t blocked.
AJ requested a set of plans of the area.
- 6. Mechanic Street Pumping Station** – Richards Adams reported that he heard from a South End resident that FOSE planted arborvitaes there on two occasions, half of which are dead and are requesting getting water and if the bushes were replaced would take charge of keeping them watered.
Steve Parkinson will look into this.
- 7. Report from AJ Dupere regarding Haymarket Square Trees** – AJ reported he has not heard back from the lab and will cut another sample to take to them. It is a leaf minor that is eating those leaves. The tree is going to be removed and AJ would like to know when this has been done so he can take some soil samples.
- 8. Report on City Summer Tree Maintenance Program** (watering) – Everett Kern stated they are out there three days/week with the watering truck. A tree was lost on Porter St. and notified the nursery.
- 9. Atlantic Heights Plantings Request** – (continued from July meeting) – Steve Parkinson referred to the island as you go in and the request to remove the shrubs that have become overgrown and replace with blueberry bushes.
Steve Parkinson stated that the existing shrubs will not be wasted and will find a place for them.
AJ suggested September, October and will look into their time frame.
- 10. Letter from Seth Levine** (attached) – The Chair referred to Mr. Levine’s letter regarding removing one of the Norway Maple trees.
The Chair felt they are close but could co-exist and to eliminate the Maple would create a gap in the canopy.

Richard Adams feels the Norway is going to surpass the Walnut, removing the second Norway the one on the corner of Middle and Wibird) would be better, feels the other Norway and Walnut are too close together.

Steve Parkinson expressed concern about the precedent of removing a tree for this reason in light of the care the Committee has taken in protecting other trees.

AJ suggested postponing this until the next meeting to give him a chance to look at it.

Everett Kern will tag the tree for next month.

11. Old Business:

- (A) **200 Thornton Street Solar Panels** - AJ went to look at Steve Pesci's tree and passed around a brochure showing an illustration of doing a crown reduction. Mr. Pesci agreed to fund the City hiring a specialist to come in to do this work. Steve Parkinson will speak with the Legal Department. An Agreement with Mr. Pesci that he'll be responsible for paying for this type of service with approval of price.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson that the Committee approve this approach and that the homeowner and Public Works will work with Legal staff to prepare an Agreement for signature. Seconded by AJ Dupere. Motion passed.

12. Next Meeting - Wednesday, September 8, 2010

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Boucas