

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

Call to Order:

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

Janet Polaski, Jeanne Zoker, Ralph DiBernardo, Richard Candee and property owners abutting the Point of Graves Cemetery.

The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 7:35 a.m.

1. Acceptance of the Minutes – Minutes of the March 10, 2010 meeting were accepted as presented.

2. Tree Removal Requests:

All evergreens in the Point of Graves Cemetery – Everett Kern reported all the trees were posted. Mr. Capobianco stated the reason for the request is that several trees had to be removed because they were ready to fall over, one fell and did damage to both our yard and Nerbonne's. Heavy rains cause that section of the cemetery to fill with water and concerned with their property and safety of gravestones. The Chair is not so much opposed to removing the trees as he would like to see it part of a plan to plant something there as it will be very barren. The abutting property owners want to be involved in the replacement process. The Chair suggested getting a plan together and will then notify you. **MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to remove all the trees and put together a plan for replacement. Seconded by Richard Adams. Motion passed.

428 Hanover St. – Resident requests something be replaced there. There is a dead tree in the bump out which roots are going into his cellar. The Chair stated the tree is in bad shape. Steve Parkinson reported there is a 5-year project for sidewalks in this neighborhood, public hearings will be held. **MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to remove. Seconded by Richard Adams. Motion passed.

62 Mendum Ave. – Janet Polaski resident stated it is a live tree, poorly pruned by PSNH and unless it is deemed a danger, sees no reason to take down a live tree. Everett Kern reported a high limb broke off which we removed and it was suggested by our arborist to remove the tree as he was able to see into the tree from the top and if it does fall will cause serious damage. The Chair felt it was not a perfect specimen but the only one there and wondered if another tree could be placed in that general area. Richard Adams stated it is a hazard to her home. The resident understood the reason for taking it down and would like a replacement. **MOTION** made by Richard Adams to remove the tree with the understanding an appropriate specimen be replaced there as soon as possible. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

69 New Castle Ave. – Everett Kern reported it is split and Mark recommended removal after looking at it. **MOTION** made by Richard Adams to remove. Seconded by Everett Kern. Motion passed.

550 Lincoln Ave. – Jeannie Zoker, 160 Wibird St. asked the general health of the tree? Everett Kern reported "not good". **MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to remove and to replace once the project is completed. Seconded by Richard Adams. Motion passed.

3. 1374 and 1384 Islington St. – The tree had not been posted. Richard Adams looked at it. Everett Kern reported the woman requested removal of limbs from that tree, there was damage to her car wanting the Committee to be aware of the estimate. The Chair asked if the damage was a result of a branch falling on the neighbor’s automobile. Everett Kern reported that the damage was not from a falling branch but from acorns that had fallen from the Oak tree. Ralph DiBernardo was present and asked to speak to this stating this is a massive oak tree in front of his home, probably 200 years old. Would like to have this recognized as one of the older largest red oak in the City and preserved as long as can be. It had a prolific crop of acorns last fall that it’s had in the last 45 years, as big as small walnuts. Mr. DiBernardo attested to the car damage looking like it went through a hail storm as their driveway is directly under the tree. Your crew has been out trimming up his side as far as they could reach and just before this young couple bought the house this year they took a large leader off their side that was completely dead dropping 3 and 4” limbs on Islington St. They cannot get their truck in any where to reach the property side of the tree and there is a great deal of dead wood right now. There is another leader that won’t last long. I think they would be happy just to get it trimmed out, maybe necessary for a contractor to do that. Mr. DiBernardo stated he’s here to say “please don’t let anything happen to my oak tree.” The Chair suggested looking at this tree. Everett Kern suggested trimming the dead wood. Steve Parkinson stated if we can’t reach with our equipment we need to bring in Urban just to clean the dead wood and not take any live limbs. Mr. DiBernardo gave permission to access his yard to do any necessary work. **MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson that Public Works look at trimming the dead wood. Seconded by Richard Adams. Motion passed.

4. Request of Discover Portsmouth Center (former Portsmouth Public Library at Islington and Middle) – The Chair presented a letter to the Committee received from Richard Candee, VP and Project Director of Discover Portsmouth Center together with drawings that Dan Rawling prepared for landscape maintenance and improvements. Mr. Rawling stated this started out as a trimming project. Mr. Rawling referred to plans he prepared in order to enhance the buildings and remove plants along the foundation. Their goal is to receive City permission for this work as well as replant two entryways on Middle St. The project will be done in different phases.

Steve Parkinson stated the building is owned by the City leased to Historical Society, in their lease they are responsible for maintenance. They are here because it is City property.

The Chair suggested going out to look at the Islington side of the site and okay that part.

Steve Parkinson is fine with the concept.

Richard Adams suggested a site walk next week and Peter Loughlin with send e-mail for availability. **MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to table with power to the site walk so they can proceed if the committee felt it appropriate. Seconded by Richard Adams. Motion passed.

5. Lincoln Ave. Area Sewer Separation Tree Impact Update – Steve Parkinson reported that he had met again with City staff and the City’s consultants on the Lincoln Avenue Sewer Separation Project. The members of the staff and the City’s consultants were under the impression that Steve wanted to have the entire length of Lincoln Avenue have a set width. That was not the case and Steve indicated that in most instances, the present width of the roadway was fine and seems to be working well. As a result of Steve’s direction, it is anticipated at this time there will be no need to remove any of the trees on Lincoln Ave. in conjunction with the Sewer Separation Project. The Project will be bid without a requirement for upgrading the existing sidewalks. If the City gets a favorable price and has the money, it may go back to the City Council for additional funding for sidewalk work.

6. Peirce Island Committee Request for Trees – The Chair sent the plan to Peter Britz who had a problem with plantings shown along outside of path, felt it was in an area that

should not be disturbed and concerned with some rare species in that area. No problem with the two Sugar Maples and 4 Elms trees and encouraged trees up near the parking lot. Steve Parkinson suggested starting with three trees by the parking lot.

The Chair asked AJ to look at the two trees in front of St. James Church as they have very attractive canopies, not too tall and appear to be salt tolerant. Another tree the Elm that's in Hay Market Square, the Pioneer, has done very well and is attractive. Suggested AJ look at the salt tolerance.

It was suggested placing a nut bearing tree, Pin Oak, at Peirce Island near the snow dump area. It was left to Everett Kern's discretion.

Steve Parkinson suggested granting three trees to Pierce Island at this time pending other requests, and if not a lot of requests this spring, perhaps plant a few more at Peirce Island in the fall.

7. Tree Sites for 2010 – Richard Adams made a short list of areas that need replacement trees for Everett.

8. Arbor Day – April 30 2010 – There is a Proclamation the Assistant Mayor will preside at the opening. There will be a brief ceremony of Peirce Island, then in kind donation of tree trimming at Peirce Island, seven or eight companies participating.

9. Old Business: The Chair read a letter received from Mrs. Fernald. **MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to accept and place on file. Seconded by Everett Kern. Motion passed.

Richard Adams referred to the large Red Oak on the corner of Junkins and Lincoln Ave. suggesting someone probe the inside, several people have expressed concern to me as there is a great deal of rot in there. AJ stated that the Forest service has a resistograph that we might be able to borrow which is like an x-ray machine for a tree, telling what's in there for live and dead wood. AJ will look into borrowing it.

June Rogers stated she has been driving around and the City which looks beautiful with the flowering trees. The Chair stated this doesn't happen without a lot of work and vigilance by Public Works and was very appreciative of their work and that of the Committee.

10. New Business: Everett Kern informed the Committee that an Eagle Scout will be working on Peirce Island on an Eagle project, working towards the fish pier up around the Birches and Pines, will haul out wood and re-edge the pathway and add stone dust.

11. Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 12, 2010 at 7:30 a.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted
Elaine Boucas, Recording Secretary