

**MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE  
TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY  
7:30 AM – Wednesday, May12, 2010  
City Hall, City Manager's Conference Room**

**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, Member

Also present were David Moore, Asst. Community Development Director, Ralph Norwood, Betsy Melrose, Tom Gorrill and Bob Metcalf , Mrs. Fernald and Michael Warhurst.

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

**1. Acceptance of the Minutes** – Minutes of the April 14, 2010 meeting were accepted with the correction of the word “barren”.

**2. Tree Removal Requests:**

- 46 Park Street – Everett Kern reported that Mark Tanner looked at the tree from the bucket truck and recommended removal. **MOTION** made by Richard Adams to remove tree. Seconded by June Rogers, Motion passed.
- 77 New Castle Avenue – Everett Kern reported a large hole on the back side of the tree. **MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to remove, seconded by Everett Kern.

**3. Atlantic Heights Streetscape Improvements – Community Development Department,** David Moore explained he has been the Project Manager on the various streetscape improvement projects in the Atlantic Heights Neighborhood. David Moore presented information on the Concord and Porpoise Way overview showing the streets. There's approximately 2000 linear ft of streetscape improvements. As this neighborhood was built in 1918 before the era of motor vehicles, we are trying to meet various challenges. We have had public meetings with the consultants and neighborhood, two Saturday onsite field days to meet with neighbors to discuss drainage, parking and tree concerns. We also have an on-line input form, “Homeowner's Observation Report Form. We will meet with the neighborhood again in late May. We are here to get this Committee's input on our challenges. We have pursued aggressive necessary tree removals for these projects and plan on aggressive replantings.

Ralph Norwood addressed the design considerations referring to traffic counts they did as one of the things that effects the trees is providing on-street parking and needed to know what parking demand they needed to meet. There is a large parking demand on the block of Concord Way between Crescent and Saratoga as well as Saratoga and Kearsarge. Because of this large demand, on-street parking needs to be provided on-both sides of the street. Mr. Norwood stated they are trying to maintain bump outs at each end of Concord Way to allow for plantings as well as traffic calming. As the parking demand was lower on Porpoise between Crescent and Saratoga, only needed to have on-street parking on one side of the street allowing for more plantings within the right-of-way. The street is narrower on the dead end section of Porpoise which allows for more plantings. As the parking demand was lower on Concord between Kearsarge and Preble Way with parking on one side of the street, there are more opportunities for plantings within the right-of-way. We are trying to meet both the parking and planting needs and are being consistent with previous projects in the area.

Betsy Melrose addressed the removals and new plantings – Ms. Melrose Landscape Architect and Arborist presented the members with information on removals and plantings. In March she and Bob Metcalf took an overall survey of trees referring to the plan in front of the members. The trees health and hazards were assessed and overall there were only a few trees in good condition that could be preserved. We are proposing to remove 20 trees and plant 29 trees in the right-of-

way, most of which are on Porpoise Way due to the parking on one side of the street. A large pin oak is being saved on Concord Way. Potential locations on private property are being proposed. Trees are being located to avoid conflicts with existing landscaping, underground and overhead utilities.

David Moore stated they are not at a final design plan and will come back to the Committee in July when the trees need to be posted for removal. The next meeting is June 10<sup>th</sup> with Traffic & Safety Committee.

The Chair asked what is the width of the pavement? Mr. Norwood responded the travel lane is 14f, the parking is 9 ft on each side for a total of 32 ft, a 5 ft sidewalk putting us at 37 ft and the right-of-way is 40 ft leaving a total of 3 ft of green space.

- 4. Pierce Island Committee Request for Trees:** - The Chair reported Peter Britz stated the area on the landward side of the trail is suitable for plantings. The Peirce Island Committee wanted something planted to break the wind and provide a different habitat.

Dick Adams felt this needed more thought even though this has been gone over before.

The Chair asked the Committee what they would like to do.

Dick Adams suggested going out there individually or as a group to assess the situation.

**MOTION** Made by Steve Parkinson to table until the next meeting. Seconded by Everett Kern. Motion passed.

- 5. Lower State Street Improvement Status:** Everett Kern stated we visited this last year. The trees were posted but not placed on the Agenda. There are two Norway Maples in front of the Dodge's residence on State St. The roadway is now being widened and those two trees will be removed and replaced with other trees. **MOTION** made by Richard Adams to remove the two Norway Maples. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

The Chair asked for an update on the layout of the trees and where they are in relation to the poles on lower State St. There was some uncertainty of the poles and discussed whether the plantings would be inside the tree line.

Steve Parkinson responded he would get this information to him within the next week.

- 6. Arbor Day Report:** The Chair reported the arborists cleaned up Peirce Island and will send a thank you letter to the companies for what they did.

- 7. Sycamore Tree at 23 Sheffield Road:** - Mrs. Fernald presented the members with pictures of the Sycamore tree giving a brief history of the tree which is presently losing bark. Mrs. Ferland is concerned that in a bad storm the branches will come down and do damage. Mrs. Ferland would like the tree removed and is willing to pay a portion for a replacement.

AJ reported that this tree has been looked at in the past, it has a wide crotch, not split or cracked. Sycamore trees naturally lose their bark.

The Chair stated the question is not about the cost for the City to remove it explaining their policy is against removing healthy trees and have discussed this tree before. As a compromise the Chair suggested the rear stem closest to Mrs. Fernald's home be removed, see how that is, perhaps plant a Maple tree that would eventually replace this tree.

Steve Parkinson suggested that AJ look at the tree from a bucket truck to see what the condition is and report back on its health.

- 8. Discover Portsmouth Center – Status Report:** The Chair reported that the vegetation has been removed, the Committee had a site walk and had authorized the cleaning of the area subject to the committee's approval. Everett Kern reported they had planted five Crimson Hawthorne and installed lower plantings on the back side of the Benedict House.

- 9. Old Business:**

AJ has not had a chance to call on the resistograph, but will do so.

**10. New Business:**

**Spring Planting:** - Everett Kern reported the requests for quotes will go out next week to the nurseries. Michael Warhurst caretaker of Prescott Park was present looking for advice on replacement of concession/bathrooms, increasing the size, incorporate sound and lights for the Festival. Some plans are in place between the Trustees of the Trust Fund and City of Portsmouth and the Arts Festival, gathering what the cost is for replacing the building or expand the building. There are two Norway Maples that would need to be removed if the plan goes forward. Peter Loughlin suggested that as the plans develop talk to Everett Kern or himself to be placed on the Agenda and post the trees for a public hearing.

**11. Next Meeting - Wednesday, June 9, 2010**

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Boucas