

**MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE  
TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY  
7:30 AM – Wednesday, February 9, 2011  
City Hall, City Manager's Conference Room**

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

Also present were Leslie Stevens, Joe Capobianco and Alan Gordon.

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

1. **Acceptance of the Minutes** – Minutes of the December 8, 2010 meeting were accepted as presented.
2. **Tree Removal Requests:**
  - Trees at Atlantic Heights Associated with Street Improvement Project – This will be discussed at the March meeting.
3. **Pierce Island Committee Tree Request** – The chair presented the Committee with a plan of Pierce Island East End Trails. Three trees were planted last year. AJ will follow up regarding their request. It was decided that four trees would be planted this year. Everett stated he has approximately 30 tree requests Citywide.  
**MOTION** made by AJ Dupere for four trees to be planted and will check out the appropriate species. Seconded by June Rogers. Motion passed.
4. **Lincoln/Miller Avenue Replacement Trees** – The chair reported a telephone call received from a Miller Ave. resident at the corner of Spring St. indicating several trees have been lost over the years in the neighborhood. The Chair reported it was the intention of the Committee to replace those trees, it would be a matter of timing as to when that project would be completed, probably in the fall or next spring. Steve Parkinson stated the earliest to be thinking about trees would be this fall. The Chair will inform the resident.
5. **City 2010 Attendance Record** – The City Clerk requested an attendance record which Elaine prepared and the Chair included in the packet.
6. **Point of Graves Tree Planting** – Mr. Capobianco reported several meetings with the committee including one with Dick Adams and Friends of the South End have been involved. They have received three incomplete proposals from North Hill Nursery, Rolling Green and Bayberry, the Cadillac proposal. Also spoke with John Forti and referred to an e-mail indicating plants they're looking at to install. The nurseries did on-site review. Mr. Capobianco stated concern with ground preparation, when the trees were taken down, there's a big section with surface roots and doesn't know how plants would survive there. Would like to discuss further and see if the City has any financial means to help them. Another concern is they want low maintenance plants as time goes on and as abutters are willing to put soaker hoses there as long as it takes to get the plants established and fertilizer the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Behind there are a lot of weeds that grow up and are difficult to get out from Mechanic St. back along the fence, 1/3 of that property has heavy duty surface roots from the pine trees that the City had removed. One of the

nurseries suggested the City put in a drainage culvert system gravitating water downward connecting to a sewer line. They had discussed at their meeting last night doing this in phases. In figuring a dollar cost probably talking \$2-\$3,000, this could be scaled back if the City wants to go in step stages of 2-3 years. The key is that the \$2-\$3,000 figure does not include ground preparation. The plants are approximately \$28-\$30 per plant. They originally talked about a raised flower bed along the fence going out 6ft and 8" against the fence, then the water would sit there and plant along the flower bed, the cost for doing this and cost of maintenance as time going on is an issue. Another thought was to put in self-sustaining islands with raised flower beds, maybe 4, 5, or 6 with groupings of plants. They would like to work with Everett Kern and Dick Adams for thoughts and ideas as to what the City can do. They strongly feel that enhancing the Cemetery, would complement the Park across the street and Strawberry Banke.

The chair asked if they had a paper plan showing placement of plantings? Joe Capobianco responded could show you the 6 million dollar proposal but do not have a formal plan of what they would like to see and is something they need to develop. He did show the committee a plan from Bayberry with groupings of ferns, grasses, boxwoods some rhododendrons and perennials. This is something they are very interested in as well as the Friends of the South End (FOSE). It may be a prelude of doing work in other cemeteries around the neighborhood. They have the interest and have done a lot of research and now looking for guidance from this Committee. The ground preparation being the key.

Dick Adams asked if the City has the capability of adding top soil?

Steve Parkinson stated he's not sure how they can get equipment in there and would have to look at it to see if they could access it with a small piece of equipment.

Joe Capobianco stated you could get a small bobcat in there through the gate and dump the soil over the fence. If we do everything that was suggested, we're talking \$14,-\$15,000 including ground preparation and drainage down by the corner of Mechanic diagonally across from the sewerage treatment plant. They could cut back by reducing the number of plants. They also referred to super loam.

Steve Parkinson stated we can look at this and see what it will take dollar wise and time wise to prep the area.

The City Manager, having received a call from Mr. Alex, wondered if the Rotary would be interested in helping us as they are always looking for projects. Steve Parkinson will speak with Mr. Alex.

The Chair stated that Steve Parkinson will speak with Mr. Alex and look into this between Public Works and the Rotary and perhaps starting it this year.

Joe Capobianco asked who Ted Alex was.

The City Manager responded, the Chairman of the Committee dealing with different types of projects they work on.

The Chair will provide the Committee with copies of the plan Joe Capobianco presented at the meeting.

Mr. Capobianco stated there was a spring fed well there years back and in looking at old drawings indicates there was a marshy stream running along there and there may now be an underground stream particularly during the wet season and heavy rains, there's standing water back there.

**MOTION** made by Everett Kern to refer to Steve Parkinson and report back at the next meeting. Seconded by June Rogers.

- 7. Discussion of Proposed Urban Forestry Ordinance** – Dick Adams suggested getting together to finalize a draft for review. The Chair will go through the comments that Dick made.

- 8. Spring Planting List** – Everett Kern presented the list of requests and is looking to the Committee for recommendation of species. Everett will get the process started as soon as possible.

Everett Kern placed Miller Ave on the list as there had been quite a few trees come down, and as work is still going on in the area, replanting will probably not happen this year.

Dick Adams asked about Ash St. Everett Kern responded that a total of three trees were taken down and is pretty much treeless on one side of the street and felt a good species would be an Ash.

AJ reported that Ash trees are having issues, although still recommending planting them here in New England. A little tiny emerald green bug eats and kills Ashes. It is in western New York State now. It affects all the Ashes, there is nothing resistant to it.

AJ suggested Dick, Everett and himself pick a day within the next week to drive around and look at the requests.

Dick Adams asked Leslie Stevens if she would like to help with this? She responded she would.

- 9. Report on Resistograph Results** – AJ reported this will happen soon.

**10. New Business:**

The Chair wanted to publicly apologize to the City Manager, Steve Parkinson and Everett Kern as he bugged Everett and Steve for weeks about getting the tree protection devices around all the downtown trees which was done very effectively in early January. We had no snow until the day after they were put in and it hasn't stopped since and feels responsible for busting the entire budget for next year.

The Chair thanked the City Manager and Public Works for a very effective way to save the trees.

**11. Next Meeting - Wednesday, March 9, 2011**

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Boucas