

AGENDA

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY COMMITTEE

**7:30 AM—Wednesday, February 12, 2014
Portsmouth City Hall, City Manager's Conference Room**

1. Acceptance of Minutes of the January 8, 2014 Meeting (Attached)
2. Tree Removal Requests: None
3. Update on Route 1 Bypass/Lafayette Road Intersection Reconstruction/Planting
4. Discussion of 2014 Plantings List
5. Update on: Ceres Street Planters; Planting Protocols; Fertilizing Policies; Haven Park Wooley Adelgid Problems
6. Update on Sagamore Avenue Reconstruction
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Next Meeting-Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Respectfully submitted, Peter J. Loughlin-Chair

Mr. Adams asked about a brochure or pamphlet to hand out to homeowners who receive a tree in front of their property. Ms. Stevens had two publications on tree care that she handed out. Mr. Dupere can get a supply for them to hand out.

Mr. Adams asked about 85-95 Woodbury Avenue and a resident complaint about improper pruning. Mr. Croteau and Mr. Rice spoke to her and explained that the City practice is to trim up trees that are in the area of box trucks and at a height that is potentially dangerous for people to poke their eyes out. It was a pin oak that they trimmed.

Ms. Stevens recently read an article that the cold is potentially killing the ash trees. Mr. Dupere did not believe it was the cold. Mr. Rice mentioned the ticks. Mr. Dupere stated that the opposite side is they are thinking of breeding better bugs so it could survive. It was supposed to kill off adelgid but it hasn't and they have them all over the southern part of NH. The problem right now is the Asian Longhorn Beetle that will change their wood quarantine very soon. The emerald ash borer is in Massachusetts in Andover and Walpole. There is no cord wood coming into NH and Merrimack County is under full restrictions with nothing coming in or out. They are going to be restricting any wood movement across Mass/NH border.

Mr. Croteau asked about the ash trees on Maplewood Avenue. Mr. Dupere confirmed they did not have the emerald ash borers. He would like to do some training with the DPW crews. The Dept. of Agriculture is developing some information. There was someone who thought the emerald ash borer was in Portsmouth but the State Entomologist and others looked at the tree and it was just a regular wood boring insect. Because of their testing, they removed a lot of bark and damaged the tree. They had to work with the homeowner and the street will have to be closed off to take the tree down. This tree is at the corner of Maplewood and Dennett.

There was a resident that sat through the meeting and Attorney Loughlin asked if she had any comments for the Committee. She stated she was just interested in trees and wanted to know what was going on. She was surprised to find out that Portsmouth had the adelgid.

Mr. Adams spoke to Ralph DiBernatto about the red oak that came down after Christmas. He said there had clearly been a lighting strike that severely compromised the tree and everyone agreed removal was the right move. Jeff Ott agreed it should come down also.

11. New Business –none.

12. Next Meeting – Wednesday, February 12, 2014

A motion to adjourn at 8:40 a.m. was made and seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. Shouse
Administrative Assistant
Planning Department