

**TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY COMMITTEE  
City of Portsmouth**

**MINUTES**

**7:30 AM – Wednesday, November 4, 2015  
Portsmouth City Hall**

**Members Present:** Peter J. Loughlin, Chairman, Richard Adams, Vice-Chairman, Leslie Stevens, and Dennis Souto.

**Members Excused:** Peter Rice, Director of Public Works; Todd Croteau, Public Works General Foreman; A. J. Dupere

*Chairman Loughlin called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.*

**1. Minutes of the September 9, 2015 meeting.**

*The motion to approve the September 9, 2015 meeting minutes was **approved** by unanimous vote.*

**2. Tree Removal Requests:**

89 Clinton Street:

The owner Mr. Floyd Buck stated that the tree was hit by a commercial truck. He said that Mr. Croteau looked at it and had recommended removal because of the split down the middle and the fact that the tree leaned over the street. Mr. Buck also asked whether the tree could be replaced by the City.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Ms. Stevens moved that the tree be removed, and Mr. Souto seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

175 Fleet Street:

It wasn't known who requested that the white birch be removed, and Ms. Stevens said that the tree wasn't posted. Vice-Chair Adams thought the tree should be spared because of its ability to survive while growing out of solid asphalt.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Vice-Chair Adams moved that the request be tabled, and Mr. Souto seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

9 Garden Street:

Ms. Stevens stated that the tree was a dead Norway and thought it should be removed.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Souto moved that the tree be removed, and Ms. Stevens seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

High/Hanover Street Parking Garage:

Mr. Bob Bernier of Eversource stated that they wanted to remove two small ornamental trees to facilitate the transformer installation, and his assistant Nick provided more detail as to why they should be removed. Vice-Chair Adams surmised that there would be no room for new trees because of the new transformer installation and the fact that it was on the side of the garage, and Mr. Bernier agreed.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Vice-Chair Adams moved that the tree be removed, and Mr. Souto seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

Langdon Park, next to 54 Lincoln (requested by owner):

The owner Mr. Peter Bergh and Mr. Terence Parker were present. Mr. Burke said there were several trees on the property line that were dead or dying, and he showed the Committee a plan noting which trees should be removed. He also noted that there were some Norway maples and a clump of invasive shrubs. He said he would plant a tree on his side to provide coverage and would prune the remaining trees, and that he would also maintain the trees and remove some Norway maples at the back of his property that were infesting the area. Mr. Bergh stated that he would take care of the cost.

Ms. Stevens asked where the catch basin was located, and Mr. Parker said it was in the park. Ms. Stevens requested that Mr. Bergh work with Mr. Rice and Mr. Croteau to ensure that the trees marked for removal actually should be removed. Mr. Bergh said that one of the trees that he wanted to remove was a dead ash, and he asked whether the City could share the cost of its removal. Chairman Loughlin said that the Committee could recommend it since Mr. Bergh had offered to pay the cost of the removal of the other trees, and Vice-Chair Adams agreed. Vice-Chair Adams noted that the linden near Lincoln Avenue was an American oak and asked whether it would look good because it was growing at a peculiar angle. Mr. Bergh said he would remove the dead branches and thin the tree out. Vice-Chair Adams stated that what Mr. Bergh proposed to do was in larger scope of what the Committee had voted to do on the opposite side of the park and said they could discuss it in the future.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Souto moved that the Committee recommend approval and that Mr. Bergh pay for everything except the cost of the ash tree's removal, which the Committee would recommend that the City be responsible for. Vice-Chair Adams seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

768-772 Middle Road:

The owner Mr. Chris Blaudschun was present and stated that a Public Works representative came out to look at the tree and recommended its removal because of its rotting core and also because of a major branch extending directly over the driveway. Mr. Blaudschun asked whether the tree could be removed and replaced. Mr. Souto asked whether the tree was the one on the strip between the two driveways, and Mr. Blaudschun agreed, saying that he would like the new tree to be placed directly on his property because the present site was too narrow for a tree.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Ms. Stevens moved that the tree be removed, and Mr. Souto seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

Chairman Loughlin asked Mr. Blaudschun to contact Mr. Croteau in late winter regarding the tree's replacement, and Mr. Souto asked him to recommend a preferred tree as well.

599 Middle Street:

Mr. Souto stated that the tree was dangerous and should be removed as soon as possible. Ms. Stevens agreed, noting that it was a silver maple and had a split trunk.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Souto moved that the tree be removed, and Vice-Chair Adams seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

**3. Update on Tuscan Kitchen Restaurant Site:**

Mr. Colin Dinsmore representing the Tuscan Kitchen showed the Committee the amended plan, noting that one tree out of five was on their property and that it had been recommended that the trees be moved off the road for plowing purposes. He said that the project team pushed three trees back onto their property, leaving the zelcova as the only remaining tree to be removed by the City.

Ms. Stevens asked whether the other trees were zelcovas as well, and Mr. Dinsmore said they were honey locusts. Chairman Loughlin noted that the stock of honey locusts had not done well over the last few years, but Ms. Stevens thought they could be fine the following year. Chairman Loughlin asked for more detail on why the trees were being pushed back, and Ms. Stevens said they would have a better survival rate because they took a beating when the sidewalk was plowed. Mr. Dinsmore stated that he received approval from the Planning Board with the stipulation that the plaza follow all necessary approvals by the City. He said that he would then return to the Committee for planting approval. Mr. Dinsmore also said there would be a cedar fence.

Chairman Loughlin asked whether there was anything the Committee needed to do, and Mr. Dinsmore requested that he write a letter as a record for the project.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Souto moved that the letter approving the plan modifications be sent to the project engineer, Colin Dinsmore, who would forward it to the Planning Department. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

**4. Update on 67 Crescent Way – Chinese elm:**

Ms. Stevens stated that the tree had not been removed as far as she knew and that Mr. Croteau and Mr. Dupere had looked at it. Mr. Souto said he was interested in seeing the tree's root system. Vice-Chair Adams noted that the Committee had discussed the tree's removal about a year before.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Souto moved that the tree be removed as soon as possible based on the Committee's recommendation after discussing the tree's status and whether or not the*

*tree had been removed and also that he be present when the tree was removed so that he could look at the root system. Ms. Stevens seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

**5. Planning for Spring, 2016 Planting:**

Mr. Stevens suggested that the Committee choose their spaces for planting as soon as possible rather than wait until January, noting that it would allow them to show a plan to Mr. Croteau that could be discussed in February. Chairman Loughlin recommended that everyone submit a list of preferred planting locations for the next meeting. Vice-Chair Adams said that he preferred going out immediately, and Ms. Stevens agreed, suggesting that they choose a section of the City that the Committee hadn't been to before.

After further discussion, Mr. Souto suggested putting together a map showing where the Committee had planted trees and where they hadn't. Vice-Chair Adams noted that Mr. Croteau had given the Committee a list of removals over the last seven years. Mr. Souto said he would follow up with Mr. Croteau. Chairman Loughlin recommended that the Committee work from the list of all the tree removals and said he would do a list of tree removals from the previous year.

**6. Update on Activities of Public Works Tree Crew:**

Chairman Loughlin noted that Vice-Chair Adams had mentioned that it would be helpful for the Committee to know what Mr. Hollowell was working on. Vice-Chair Adams said he was curious as to whether Mr. Hollowell did things on his own or followed the Committee's recommendations. Ms. Stevens said it was a bit of both. Chairman Loughlin said that the Committee should know what was being done and said he would write a letter to Mr. Rice and Mr. Croteau.

**7. Old Business:**

There was no old business.

**8. New Business:**

There was no new business.

**9. Next Meeting – Wednesday, December 9, 2015.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Breault  
Recording Secretary