

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

**MINUTES**

**7:30 AM – Wednesday, November 9, 2016**  
**Portsmouth City Hall**

**Members Present:** Peter Loughlin, Chairman; Richard Adams, Vice-Chairman; Peter Rice, Department of Public Works; Leslie Stevens; A. J. Dupere; Dennis Souto; Joan Walker; and Dan Umbro. City Arborist Corin Hallowell was also present.

**Members Excused:** Dennis Souto, Dan Umbro

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

**1. Acceptance of Minutes of the October 12, 2016 Meeting.**

*The October 12, 2016 meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.*

**2. Tree Removal Requests: None**

**3. Follow Up Discussion on Hunking Street Trees**

Chairman Loughlin introduced Portsmouth citizens Peter Morin and Carol Bird. Mr. Morin stated that two trees were blocking his view of the water channel. Mr. Dupere explained that the trees were in that location because there had been no other open space in the neighborhood. He said he didn't want to do anything until the spring, and also thought they could be moved next to some historic houses. He noted that the trees were healthy and could be pruned over the years, and that the blocking issue would only occur a few years down the road. Mr. Hallowell said he'd also like to keep the trees.

Mr. Rice said he thought it was a great place for the trees but felt that people's views had to be considered. He said he concurred with Mr. Dupere about keeping them through the winter and then look for another location. He suggested beginning with the tree near the corner, which was the most egregious in terms of the sight line. Chairman Loughlin noted that the Committee had previously resisted tree removal requests from citizens but felt that, because the trees were only recently planted, the Committee could balance the neighbors' desires.

The Committee further discussed it. Vice-Chair Adams said that the original intention of planting the trees was because they were requested and the corner was fairly bleak, and he noted that it would be long time before they would block the neighbors' view. Chairman Loughlin asked Mr. Morin whether there was one tree that would not negatively impact his view. Mr. Morin replied that the tree closest to Gino's could be moved and the one to the west of it could be moved 5-6 feet. Mr. Hallowell agreed but noted that the homeowner would have to be consulted due to an existing flower bed but felt she wouldn't much care because she was selling the house.

*Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. Mr. Rice moved that the tree close to Gino's be removed and relocated elsewhere and that the other tree be moved 5-6 feet up. Ms. Walker seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

#### **4. Discussion of 2017 Suggested Tree Planting Sites & Notification to Landowners**

Chairman Loughlin said he adapted Ms. Stevens' list and went with the sites that the Committee members thought were good places and that citizens were not opposed to, which pared down the original list. He said several sites needed to be added back in.

Ms. Walker said she spoke to the resident at 200 Thornton Street, who offered to help pay for three new trees. Ms. Stevens noted that the species should be selected so as to ensure that they will not block sunlight on the solar panels. Mr. Dupere said the trees were pruned and continued to worsen. Ms. Stevens said she noted a few places where the citizens should be asked whether or not they wanted a tree, and said 109 Hillside Drive was one of them. She also noted that Vice-Chair Adams' four trees had to be added.

Vice-Chair Adams noted that the process was never that difficult before and asked why there were multiple lists. Chairman Loughlin said it was because some trees didn't get included.

At this point, Mr. Croteau joined the meeting (7:50 a.m.).

Mr. Dupere suggested getting one live master list. Mr. Rice suggested using Google Docs. Chairman Loughlin asked that 325 Thaxter Road and 245 Essex Avenue be added to the list.

Mr. Hallowell asked that the Committee members email their suggestions to Ms. Stevens by Monday and that the letters go out Tuesday. Vice-Chair Adams asked who would send the letters out, and Chairman Loughlin said he would.

The Committee then discussed tree species. Mr. Hallowell suggested that the Committee come up with a list of acceptable species, after which soil testing could be done and species could be categorized into different groups, e.g. a species that liked acid soils. Chairman Loughlin said it was a good idea. Vice-Chair Adams asked whether it could be done before spring. Mr. Hallowell said he could make it happen fast, but an issue was whether the homeowner would want the tree or not.

Vice-Chair Adams noted that, every year, trees ended up being planted in June or July, and he had thought that, for 2016, the list should be sent out to bid by January. Mr. Hallowell said it could be done by choosing the sites and then doing the testing. He said he would begin taking soil samples when he got the list and felt that it would go happen quickly. He said they could add other trees to the list if citizens requested them. Chairman Loughlin also noted that the Committee would have the flexibility to add other sites in the next four months.

**5. Old Business** - None.

**6. New Business** - None.

**7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 15, 2016**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Breault  
Recording Secretary