

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

**MINUTES**

**7:30 AM – Wednesday, August 8, 2018  
Portsmouth City Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Manager’s Conference Room**

**Members Present:** Peter J. Loughlin, Chairman; Dennis Souto; Peter Rice, Director of Public Works; Corin Hallowell, City Arborist; Joan Walker; Michael Griffin; and Dan Umbro

**Members Excused:** Richard Adams, Vice-Chairman; A. J. Dupere

---

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

**1. Acceptance of Minutes of the July 11, 2018 Meeting**

*It was moved, seconded, and approved by unanimous vote to **approve** the July 11, 2018 minutes.*

**2. Tree Removal Requests:**

85 Aldrich Road – Silver Maple

Mr. Hallowell said the tree was in serious decline and recommended removal.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Souto moved to recommend removal of the tree, and Ms. Walker seconded. The motion **passed** by unanimous vote.*

277 Aldrich Road – Silver Maple

Mr. Hallowell stated that the tree had a lot of decay at its base and was in decline. He also noted that there was a potential for a second tree in that area to be removed the following year.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Umbro moved to recommend removal of the tree, and Mr. Souto seconded. The motion **passed** by unanimous vote.*

37 Crescent Way – Chinese Elm

Mr. Hallowell said the tree was in decline. Ms. Walker asked whether it could be pruned. It was discussed, and Mr. Hallowell suggested that the tree be removed.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Souto moved to recommend removal of the tree, and Mr. Rice seconded. The motion **passed** by unanimous vote.*

50 Mount Vernon Street – Norway Maple

Mr. Hallowell said the tree looked healthy but had some decay, and that the stump next to it was also decaying and shared a root system with the tree. He said the resident was concerned because the tree was leaning toward his house. Mr. Hallowell recommended that the tree be removed.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Souto moved to recommend removal of the tree, and Ms. Walker seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

#### 98 Thaxter Road – Silver Maple

Mr. Hallowell said the tree's large leader had massive decay and was leaning over the house. He recommended that the entire tree be removed.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Umbro moved to recommend removal of the tree, and Mr. Souto seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

#### 126 Wibird Street – Plum Tree

The resident Al Lantinen was present and said he was concerned because the tree was leaning over his house. He asked that the tree be removed and that a replacement tree be planted. Mr. Hallowell said that over 50% of the tree was dead and that there was enough space to plant another tree in the near future.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Griffin moved to remove the tree, and Mr. Umbro seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

#### 31 Boss Avenue – Norway Maple

Mr. Hallowell said the resident felt that the Norway maple was damaging her retaining wall. He said the tree's roots were not hurting the wall and that the tree was healthy. He recommended removing some smaller trees along the wall instead and monitoring the Norway maple.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Rice moved to recommend removal of the tree, and Mr. Griffin seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

### **3. Discussion on Native Species with Corin Hallowell**

Mr. Hallowell distributed a handout to the committee on definitions of plants, including native, invasive, non-native, exotic, and naturalized plants. It also included a list of 2018 native city tree species for Portsmouth. He suggested that the committee use the list as a working definition of tree species to educate the public and ensure that everyone agreed on what a native plant was. He said the working definition would be tree species that were native to the eastern United States and would give the committee a large palette of trees to work with. He noted that 64% of the trees planted in Portsmouth in 2018 were native, according to that definition, and that the list could be used as a tool for tree planting. Mr. Rice recommended that the native plant working definition list be included on the Trees and Greenery website page so that the public could get a better feel of what the committee's decision process was based on.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Rice moved to post the native plant working definition list on the Trees and Greenery website, and Mr. Souto seconded. The motion **passed** by unanimous vote.*

#### **4. Update on 2018 Spring/Summer Planting**

Mr. Hallowell said that all the spring and summer plantings were doing very well, with the exception of one tree on Lincoln Avenue that was struggling. He noted that the plants were of good stock and bought from a high-quality nursery. The bidding process was briefly discussed. Mr. Hallowell said his goal was to have all the new trees planted by the end of May 2019. The planting process was further discussed.

#### **5. Old Business**

There was no old business.

#### **6. New Business**

Mr. Souto suggested that a fund be created toward which citizens could contribute money for plantings and various tree activities. He asked whether it was acceptable for the committee to actively solicit money from the public. Mr. Rice said he wasn't sure whether the city had a policy. He said he had some anxiety about active solicitation of funds without some specific program. It was further discussed, and Mr. Rice said he would discuss it with the City Manager.

#### **7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 12, 2018.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Breault  
Recording Secretary