

**Trees and Public Greenery Committee
City of Portsmouth**

MINUTES

**8:00 a.m. – Wednesday, June 12, 2019
Portsmouth City Hall, 4th Floor, City Manager's Conference Room**

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

Members Excused: A. J. Dupere

Chairman Loughlin called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

(Note: the committee addressed Tree Removal Request #3 first because the property owner was present).

1. Acceptance of Minutes of the May 8, 2019 Meeting

The May 8, 2019 meeting minutes will be addressed at the July 10, 2019 meeting.

2. Tree Removal Requests

Ten trees along perimeter of Parrot Ave lot both on Junkins Ave and Parrot Ave – DPW request.

Mr. Hallowell said that the trees were almost dead. He suggested removing them, improving the soil conditions, and then planting a few different species in the spring. Mr. Rice recommended that he and Mr. Hallowell meet with Public Works Project Manager Dave Desfosses about prioritizing related issues, such as paving for the parking lot.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Hallowell moved to recommend removal of the ten trees and replant where possible. Mr. Umbro seconded. The motion **passed** by unanimous vote.*

One Linden tree, South Mill parking lot next to guard rail – DPW request.

Mr. Hallowell said the tree was dead and recommended that it be removed and replaced.

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

Dogwood tree, Atkinson Park – Resident request.

The resident Doug Johnson of 20 Atkinson Street was present. He told the Committee that he had adopted Atkinson Park 20 years ago and had planted everything in the park at his expense. He said the dogwood tree was almost dead and asked that it be removed and replaced. Mr. Hallowell suggested removing the tree and planting a replacement tree in spring 2020.

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

3. Update on Spring 2019 Planting

Mr. Hallowell said the planting was going well, due to all the rain. He said a few trees had dead tops but could be pruned but thought they would probably be replaced.

Mr. Hallowell said a Miller Avenue resident offered a small copper beech tree to the City. It was transplanted from the resident's property to the lower Langdon Park area.

4. Update on Tree Protection Zone

Mr. Hallowell noted that the Committee previously asked for illustrations to address the tree protection zone issue, but that he hesitated to add pictures because people would look at it as 'that's it'. He said each protection zone was based on site conditions and experience, and that adding too many illustrations might lead people to look in the wrong direction. He recommended the book *Managing Trees During Construction*, which he said should be provided to people like the City's Land Use Compliance Agent Vincent Hayes and everyone on the Committee. He said it had basic illustrations and was well labeled so that people could understand it. He said it came down to training and City staff having the proper guide to work out of. He offered to distribute the book to the applicable personnel and any Committee member who didn't have a copy.

Chairman Loughlin suggested coordinating it with the City Inspector, who could use the book as a reference when asked for a building permit. Mr. Hallowell said the contractors would be fine if they had the City-distributed document that was previously provided to them, and that job bidders should already be familiar with it. He reiterated that Mr. Hayes and other staff personnel could be trained so that they could handle any problems.

Mr. Rice said the next step was to meet with the Assistant City Manager, the Planning Director, and the City Inspector so that the language could be incorporated into the permitting process until it became a standard. He also recommended that there be fines or repercussions if people violated the requirements. He said his staff had researched metrics that other large cities used to come up with a value for a tree lost to construction damage, and he suggested that those metrics be incorporated into an ordinance and also ensure that the City had the State enabling legislature. Chairman Loughlin agreed that the issue should be pursued.

Action Item: Mr. Rice said his staff would 1) get a list of communities that had the fining system, 2) get the requirements in place with the City's Planning and Inspection departments, and 3) submit it to the City Council for approval.

5. Old Business

Mr. Rice said the linden tree at the North Church the tree looked great, especially since it had recently received rubberized porous pavement protection. Mr. Hallowell noted that the trees on Porter Street that had tree grates had lots of new growth and looked amazing.

6. New Business

Mr. Griffin said he had a tree available for the City to use as its annual Christmas tree and invited Mr. Hallowell to look at it.

Vice-Chair Adams noted that the Committee had looked at some trees on Junkins Avenue a few years before that were unkempt and haphazard but were told that City Hall had to sign off on it, and nothing was done. He said the stone wall was collapsing. Mr. Rice said that one of the trees in that area had to be removed so that a section of the wall could be rebuilt. He suggested that the Committee do a site walk.

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 10, 2019

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Breault
Committee Recording Secretary