

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

**MINUTES**

**8:00 a.m. – Wednesday, December 11, 2019  
Portsmouth City Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> 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; A. J. Dupere, Dennis Souto, Patricia Bagley, Dan Umbro, and Michael Griffin

**Members Excused:** None.

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

**1. Acceptance of Minutes of the November 13, 2019 Meeting**

*It was moved, seconded, and passed to **approve** the November 13, 2019 meeting minutes.*

**2. Receipt of helpful tree information from Kate Harris**

Portsmouth citizen Kate Harris was present and distributed information about the mycorrhizal fungi system. She explained that mycorrhizal fungi are a natural part of soil, being spores that colonize the roots of trees and form a secondary root system that helps bring water and nutrients to the trees. She said the bioengineered spores come in a dehydrated form and are activated when mixed with water. She recommended that the City use the mycorrhizal fungi system when planting trees.

**3. Tree Removal Requests**

There were no tree removal requests.

**4. Discussion of the Tree Fund**

Mr. Rice said he still had to meet with the Legal Department about the Tree Fund.

**5. Discussion of Plaza 800 Trees (DPW Director Peter Rice)**

Mr. Rice said the City had an agreement with the owners of Plaza 800 to allow them to hire their own landscapers and then compensate them. He said that Plaza 800 didn’t have a design for that particular section of the roadway yet but that they wanted to redo the landscaping for their whole area. He noted that about a half-dozen trees were removed. Chairman Loughlin suggested that a subcommittee meet with the Plaza 800 owners to get

an idea of what they planned to do. Mr. Rice agreed and said he would contact the owners and report back to the committee.

### **Ambit Engineering Request to Remove a Tree for 41 Salem Street Project**

Joe Mulledy of Ambit Engineering was present on behalf of an applicant who was requesting site plan approval for a project at 41 Salem Street. He said the proposal was to build three single-family homes on the lot, but a Norway maple was in the middle of the site and needed to be removed to construct the driveway. He noted that there was an additional tree on the lot that could also benefit the project by its removal.

Vice-Chair Adams asked if the site allowed for new plantings. Mr. Mulledy said the developer wanted to plant several trees in their place but that the plan didn't show where the new trees would be located. Chairman Loughlin said there was a formal process for tree removals. Mr. Hollowell said he was familiar with the site and would place the tree on the January meeting agenda as a tree removal request. He said he thought that only one tree had to be removed.

### **6. Presentation regarding pros and cons of bare root planting**

Mr. Hollowell distributed a list of the 2020 city tree plantings. He discussed bare root planting and said that three times as many trees could be planted for the same cost. He said the process would be less labor intensive and that the success rate was very high. He also noted that they were already using the mycorrhizal process. He said letters would go out to landowners. Vice-Chair Adams asked whether the public should be made aware of the process. Mr. Rice said the City was putting together Outreach information and would hold a kickoff meeting in May. Mr. Hollowell said the City would continue to plant trees with roots wrapped in burlap for special tree species. Chairman Loughlin asked whether deeper digging would be required if soil was packed in or there was clay. Mr. Hollowell said that most of the soil was consistent and usually never loosened, and that hard-packed soil was fine in that the roots of most species grow laterally, fairly close to the surface, and don't require loosening of the soil. It was further discussed.

### **7. Preliminary discussion of 2020 planting sites**

The 2020 planting sites discussion was included in the discussion of bare root planting.

### **8. Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **9. New Business**

There was no new business.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Breault  
Committee Recording Secretary