

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

MINUTES

**7:30 a.m. – Wednesday, April 10, 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; A. J. Dupere, Joan Walker, Dan Umbro, and Michael Griffin

Members Excused: Dennis Souto

Also Present: City Land Use Compliant Agent Vincent Hayes

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

- 1. Acceptance of Minutes of the February 13, 2019 Meeting** (There was no meeting in March owing to a lack of business.)

*It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to **approve** the February 13, 2019 minutes.*

- 2. Tree Removal Request: two American Elms at 25 Mangrove St – Resident Request**

The resident Tom Zahoruiko was present and stated that one of the trees was tangled in the wires and the other tree was in the City’s right-of-way. Mr. Hallowell agreed and said the trees were on City property and weren’t very healthy.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Vice-Chair Adams moved to **recommend removal** of the two trees. Ms. Walker seconded. The motion **passed** by unanimous vote.*

- 3. Tree Protection Zones – Discussion of possible working document to be used with building permits relating to construction projects and land use permitting.**

Mr. Hallowell stated that he had a document of specifications for Best Management Practices for tree protection during construction projects. He distributed copies of the document to the Committee members. He said the document was based on industry standards and would be instrumental in working with residents and project managers.

Mr. Rice asked whether there were illustrations or figures to help in figuring out the specifications. Mr. Hallowell said there were and that he would submit them. He said he would also add a Definitions section.

Chairman Loughlin asked whether there was a smaller document for residents to decipher the information easier. Mr. Hallowell said the document was the guideline and if it were oversimplified, it may not cover all situations or people might misinterpret the regulations. He noted that Public Works staff would be involved if the trees were on City property, and that they could help the residents understand the document. Chairman Loughlin pointed out that there was a notation in the document stating that it would be approved by city arborists. Mr. Hallowell agreed and said he would also look into buying an EMP (Environmental Management Plan) book with illustrations

Mr. Rice asked Mr. Hayes whether he had periodic training sessions with contractors. Mr. Hayes said he didn't but that he attended pre-construction meetings and checked in on the project periodically.

Mr. Rice asked Mr. Hallowell whether he could do a certification. Mr. Hallowell said he would rather not do a certification. He said the contractors would set everything up and that the City would check on things and tweak it if necessary. He said he could also train Mr. Hayes on the procedure. Mr. Hayes said he would accompany Mr. Hallowell during the spring planting. Mr. Rice said the document would be posted online eventually but recommended that it be presented to the City Inspection group to let them know that they would have an additional responsibility.

Chairman Loughlin asked what would happen in the case of a small lot with construction inside a drip line. Mr. Hallowell said that either wood chips, a fence, or other mitigation practices could be used. He noted that the tree would be destroyed if the construction ended up in the drip line, and that citizens had to be made aware of that sort of thing. It was further discussed.

Mr. Rice suggested that the Committee review a final markup of the policy at the next meeting. He recommended a waiver to make it clear that homeowners would be responsible for replacing any damaged trees and that the City would work with them if they were not able to meet the requirements. He said there would be remediation if the homeowners couldn't follow the policy. Chairman Loughlin said there could be a procedure stating that the City Arborist could waive requirements or make modifications.

Mr. Dupere asked Mr. Hallowell if he could get images from the Tree Forest Manual. Mr. Hallowell said he could if they were in the EMP and that he would look into it.

Action Items: Mr. Hallowell will submit illustrations and a Definitions section for the tree protection document. He will look into buying an EMP manual with illustrations and/or get images from the Tree Forest Manual.

4. Update on Lois Street Tree Removal

Mr. Rice stated that the City was in the process of purchasing the land and working with the property owner. He said the proposal might have to go before the City Council. He

said the trees they wanted to remove were in the existing paper street section. He also noted that the City wanted to secure a property on Marjorie Street.

5. Update on Spring 2019 Planting

Mr. Hallowell stated that all the sites were marked and that letters were sent to affected residents. He said they would pick up the trees the following week and start planting in a few weeks. Chairman Loughlin asked Mr. Hallowell to circulate a list and whether the planting locations were on City property. Mr. Hallowell said that a few were. He said he would submit the planting tree list and the locations where the trees would be planted.

Action Item: Mr. Hallowell will submit the list of tree species and their planting locations.

6. Report on Tree Located Across from 15 Denise Street

Mr. Hallowell said the red oak was in decline and that he wanted to have it pruned and reduced rather than removed. He said it had serious root damage, but he thought he could work with it and keep it a while longer.

7. Old Business

There was no old business.

8. New Business

799 South Street

Chairman Loughlin stated that the Committee received an email pertaining to 799 South Street. Mr. Hallowell said Ambit Engineering was developing a property and a tree was in the way. He showed a picture of the tree, a hornbeam. Mr. Rice asked whether the project went before the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Mr. Hallowell said he didn't know but that he would speak to John Chagnon of Ambit Engineering. He said Ambit wanted to remove the tree because they wanted to widen the driveway and the tree was in the way. He said the tree was healthy and that he hated to see it removed. The Committee discussed whether the tree should be grafted or whether a mirror should be posted nearby. Mr. Rice said the request might have been from Eric Eby of the Traffic Committee due to the potential for additional traffic and visual impairment.

America Tower Corporation

Mr. Dupere said that he and Mr. Hallowell were working with American Forests about a group called America Tower Corporation, a cellphone and power transmission company, who wanted to do some kind of physical tree activity. He said 65 people from the company would be involved and that it was still in the planning stage. Mr. Hallowell suggested that the Committee wait and see what the group came up with but suggested

that they could do small trees with planters or plant species that were suitable for the shoreline. He also said it would depend on how much money they were willing to donate and how much of the City's time and input would be necessary. He said he would put together a list of tree species for the group.

Action Item: Mr. Hollowell will draft a list of tree species available for America Tower Corporation to use.

Tree Growth Award

Mr. Rice noted that the City received a Tree Growth Award from the State of New Hampshire, one of only two that the State awarded. He said it was a reflection of Mr. Hollowell's and Chuck Baxter's work and that he was proud of them. He said the award would probably be presented at a City Council meeting and invited Chairman Loughlin and the Committee members to attend.

Arbor Day

Vice-Chair Adams asked whether there were activities planned for Arbor Day. Mr. Hollowell said he wanted to do some work at the Community Campus on West Road because the property needed a lot of work, noting that there were several pin oaks that needed their canopies raised and other dead trees that needed to be removed. He said the volunteer tree companies could do the project in the morning and that he could hold a safety training seminar in the afternoon. He said he would do a site visit at Community Campus the next day to see what they required.

Action Item: Mr. Hollowell will do a site visit at Community Campus on April 11 to review the requirements for the Arbor Day project.

9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 8, 2019

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Breault
Committee Recording Secretary