

**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
TREES & PUBLIC GREENERY COMMITTEE**



WED. OCTOBER 14, 2026, 8 am

City Hall Conference Room A

1 Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth NH

Please register in advance to participate via Zoom:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TMCatXR1S7izFYtC5lqmDw

"There is not a village in America, however badly planned at first, or ill-built afterwards, that may not be redeemed, in a great measure, by the aid of shade trees in the streets ... and it is never too late or too early to project improvements of this kind."

Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852)

AGENDA

1. Acceptance of Minutes for September 9, 2026 meeting
2. Tree Removal Requests -- Reminder: interacting with the listed address on a computer or smart device will open Google Maps to the location of the tree(s) marked for removal.
 - [Ledgewood Dr](#): all trees in the right of way will be removed to develop the lot. Species will include pine, maple, cherry, beech, birch, and oak. See plans in packet for additional context.
 - [86 Thornton St](#): 1 spruce, good condition, removal requested by resident. The resident is concerned about windthrow and the tree is close to the house. There is a slope with surface-level roots that may impact the trees stability.
 - [213 South St](#): 2 hemlock, poor condition, removal requested by the resident, removal recommended by the City. Both trees are exhibiting low vigor with thinning canopies and large dead sections.
 - [99 Boyd Rd \(on paper road near Garden St\)](#): 1 Norway maple, poor condition, on paper road, removal requested by resident, removal recommended by the City. There is a large torsion wound wrapping around the trunk, and large dead branches through the center of the crown.
 - [400 Colonial Dr](#): 1 little leaf linden, fair condition, removal requested by the resident, removal recommended by the City. This large linden has a cavity at the base, but there is a great amount of reaction wood forming to seal the defect, though the heartwood is significantly rotten. A column of decay appears to descend from the union of the two major leaders.
 - [15 Woodworth Ave](#): 1 silver maple, fair condition, removal requested by the resident. A recent storm failure has prompted this request. This tree has been pruned by Eversource, and it has a codominant stem with half of the canopy weight toward the house.
 - [122 Thaxter Rd](#): 1 red oak, removal requested by resident. A new driveway proposed on Sewall Rd will require the removal of this tree.
 - [17 Thaxter Rd](#): 2 silver maple, fair condition, removal requested and recommended by the City. Eastern jack-o-lantern mushroom is growing in a low, decaying union as well as around the base of the tree. At the base of the other tree there are several instances of hen of the woods growing in the root zone,

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suggesting decaying buttress roots.

- [Langdon Park \(behind 19 Kent St\)](#): 1 oak, fair condition, removal requested and recommended by the City. The tree is declining with uniform deadwood throughout the canopy. There are many instances of shelf fungus in the root zone of the tree, which suggests decaying buttress roots and potential instability.
- [Langdon Park \(behind 55 Kent St\)](#): 1 sugar maple, fair condition, removal requested and recommended by the City. This tree has a large crack at the base and significant shelf fungi in a basal wound and along the trunk near the crack.

3. Old Business

- Sylvester St removals update: Eversource removed all trees approved in September with exception given to the large pine near the end of the street.
- Tree planting 2027: letters have gone out and residents have two months to respond with preferences.

4. New Business—

- Holiday tree: This year's holiday tree is being donated by a resident in Eliot, ME. The tree will be moved on November 17th.
- Urban Forestry Ordinance: inclusion and definition of “exigent circumstances”:

Section 8.309:

G.

The Tree Warden shall order the issuance of permits for tree removal only after a public hearing is held by the Trees & Public Greenery Committee and after the Committee finds that the desired action is necessary and the proposed methods and workmanship are satisfactory. Except for exigent circumstances, the decisions of the Tree Warden shall be subject to prior review and approval by the Trees & Public Greenery Committee, which will consider the following: (1) the reason for the request; (2) the health of the tree; and (3) the importance of the tree to the streetscape and/or neighborhood.

5. Public Comment

6. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted, Patricia Bagley, Chair