

**City of Essex Junction
Tree Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting
April 18, 2023**

Members Present: Nick Meyer, Nicole Klett, Warren Spinner, Max Seaton, Steve Rivard

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm by Nicole, second by Nick.

II. Additions or Amendments to Agenda

No additions or amendments.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the March 21st, 2023 meeting minutes was made by Warren, 2nd by Steve.

IV. Planting 2023 Committee Involvement

Nick informed the committee that there is some planting that can be done by the committee. There are 37 trees total and five that should be planted as singles at Hiawatha School, Lincoln St, Maple St behind Firebird in tree grate, Maple Street Park in front of swimming pool, Drury Drive. Committee looking at a block of time to plant and date will be decided later offline. Trees are tagged with blue ribbons at the nursery. The rest of the 32 will be put on a trailer and Public Works will bring the trees to their Elm St yard and store them until it's time for planting and then the contractor will plant the rest of the trees (Limbwalker Tree Service) in the first week of May.

Steve suggested a photo op for tree planting to promote now and in the future. Volunteers for planting May 6th so we may need to get word out on FPF, Facebook, in schools, on the website and more.

Volcano Mulching, Tree Walk, Tree planting batched as one post for Ashley for FPF.

V. Arbor Day Celebration-Hiawatha

Zoom meeting with Nick and Earth Rangers and Alice Weston went well with decisions to plant a tree in memory of a beloved PE teacher with location near outdoor track and the tree will be a Honey Locust. Planting will be an hour 1:30-2:30 on May 5th with remarks beforehand. Patrick attended as the groundskeeper for the school district to help with placement and for future collaboration.

Photos and PSA to be shared about it later.

VI. Tree Historic Walk-PR

June 3rd is the date for The City of Essex Junction Tree and Historical Tree Walk from 10-11:30 am. Warren and Tim Jerman with bios and photos to be featured in our local PR. There will be a meeting place beside the Amtrak station and Railroad Ave. Steve has signs that could go along the route. Warren will have pamphlets about trees. Hoping to offer a nice experience for city residents and see how this first walk goes and put on annually.

VII. May 6 Nursery Planting-PR

As above with individual posting across platforms in addition to city support.

VIII. Monthly PSAs

Spoke with Ashley regarding utilizing the Front Porch Forum with a once a month posting of all things happening in one post to save the other posts per month the city is designated to use each month.

IX. Other Business

Ashley delivered the City of Essex Junction’s official Tree City USA letter from the Arbor Day Foundation for 2023.

Watering trees over the summer was brought up by Nick and in May, the committee could discuss coverage and other works for the summer.

Steve asked about the pocket park and city will start in 2024 and grant money has come in. Crescent Connector could be breaking ground soon.

X.Date for Next Meeting

The Committee will meet on May 16th at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Nick made a motion to adjourn at 6:10 p.m. 2nd Warren, 3rd by Nick.

January -Planning Calendar
February -Public Education around Tree Work/Trimming (Winter is the time to reach out to arborist)-HOLD for 2024
March -Public Education around Thinking about planting a tree?
April - Potential Tree Keeper Training/Dip and Bag 28th and Tree Sale 29th/National Arbor Day 28th
May -Tree Planting 6th/VT Arbor Day 5th/Hiawatha
June -Tree Walk 3rd
July -Public Education around Tree Planting/Maintenance/Watering
August -Advertise Tree Contest

September-Form Submission for Tree Contest open after Labor Day

October-Judging and Announcement of Tree Contest Winner

November-Public Education around Trees in Fall (Best Handling of Leaves, etc)

December-Public Education around Tree Decorating/Tradition of Cutting down Christmas Tree