

**City of Essex Junction
Tree Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting
March 21, 2023**

Members Present: Nick Meyer, Nicole Klett, Warren Spinner, Rich Boyers, Max Seaton

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:09 pm by Nick, second by Nicole.

II. Additions or Amendments to Agenda

No additions or amendments.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

IV. Planting

Warren gave updates on planting. Met with Patrick Dattilio from the School Department and he was interested in the Old Colchester Rd sites proposed and verified that they were school owned and available. Plans for all 37 trees are in place as previously discussed in the 2/21/23 minutes. Still need to show locations to possible contractors for planting and maintenance interest and estimates. Awaiting response from finance for budget.

V. Arbor Day Celebration

Nick is meeting this Thursday the 23rd at Hiawatha with the core of club group Earth Rangers and Alice Weston. The club meets on Thursdays and could have an Arbor Day event on May 4th. Nick has trees under consideration for planting.

VI. Crescent Connector Update

Warren stated there isn't any new information. There is an intention that tree planting infrastructure could be funded for underground architecture and support trees. Still no start date advertised. As previously announced, Engineers Construction won the bid.

VII. Events-Trustee Meeting-Tree Training-Arbor Day Conference-Tree Walk

Nick will attend the Trustee meeting tomorrow night to update on TAC's past year and that we will be educating and inviting the public to attend more events and be tree stewards. Also, update plans on Tree Walk-Historic as Tim Jerman will be involved. Tim will need to give input on where to spend the most time on the 2 hour tour.

Treekeeper Training will occur on the 6th of April. The PSA has gone out as of the 17th of March with thanks to Ashley Snellenberger per Nicole. Nick or Steve will represent TAC at the BOB event.

The Arbor Day Conference on May 19th 9 am-3pm at VTC in Randolph is an opportunity for anyone interested in trees like arborists, tree wardens, tree committees, etc to learn about trees. Awards will be given out like Tree Steward awards and Tree City, Tree Campus and Tree Utility and lunch is served. Vermont Urban Forestry Program is sponsoring.

VIII. PR

Discussion of announcing the Arbor Day Conference, Tree City USA award and getting a picture of TAC with small blurb for PR for year 8 of receiving this award including what the criteria was to get the award, etc.

Will plan in late April to announce the planting at the nursery on May 6th and can tie into earth day. Nick may have previous language for the planting day.

The Arbor Day banner will be out for the week of May 1st in celebration of Arbor Day, May 5th for VT and info on planting a tree on the website will coincide as public education.

Will announce Hiawatha School Arbor Day event after May 4th including approved photos and a brief description.

June 3rd is the date for the Essex Junction Historic Tree Walk chosen because Burlington may do one on the 10th. A press release for the Tree Walk including who, what, where, when and info on the special trees and history of homes in Essex Junction needed. Also to include details on where to start, duration, who's speaking.

IX. Other Business

Nicole thanked Nick for heading up the Arbor Day banner creation and he in turn gave credit to Ashley Snellenberger for her work on it.

X. Date for Next Meeting

The Committee will meet on April 18th at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Nick made a motion to adjourn at 6:00pm, 2nd Rich, 3rd by Warren.