

**City of Essex Junction  
Tree Advisory Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
February 20, 2023**

Members Present: Nick Meyer, Nicole Klett, Warren Spinner

In attendance virtually: Steve Rivard and Rich Boyers

**I. Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 pm by Warren, second by Rich.

**II. Additions or Amendments to Agenda**

No additions

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the January 2024 meeting minutes was made by Warren, second by Nicole.

**IV. Tree Planting 2024**

Warren reports that Nick has knocked on doors and spoken with a lot of Hayden, Wilkinson and Lavoie Street residents about the emerald ash borer. He is keeping record of locations where trees will be removed and the requested tree species of homeowners of trees. Have spoken with Harland for placing trees in Cascade Park including one as a memorial. A tree vandalized on Mansfield ave to replace.

Still looking for a few places to plant since we do not have to use all the 23 trees that are pulled from the nursery this year. Wanting to consolidate so watering is easier to manage. Consider West Street, Old Colchester road, Cascade and the Maple Street Park could be future sites.

**V. UCF Emerald Ash Borer Grant**

Warren and Nick announced that we got the grant and the city will sign off on it soon. City meeting with management of the grant and attended by Ricky Jones, Regina, Ashley, Warren and Nick. TAC will be enrolled in doing that given the timeline of the grant. The announcement of EAB in the Junction was posted on the City website. So far 19 Ash trees have been taken out on common lands on Wilkinson which we will not replace given they border a tree line. We will remove 20 more trees in the public right of way. The grant is a 50/50 match. DPW will remove the trees and be responsible for watering the newly planted trees. and we are likely not to replace. We will need to remove 20 more trees. This is for public land impacts rather The grant is a 50/50 match. EW remove the trees and then the trees will be planted and also fund the watering and maintenance of planted trees.

**VI. Maple Street Park Tree Walk Improvements**

Nick took a walk and felt like it could be re-worked. Has spoken with Sammel signs who has done other signs in the park. They are well versed in park signage and what size is needed. QR codes could be done in aluminum.

TAC will meet in June/Summer, walk the park, reduce the trees and make sure that diversity is intact. May be able to get volunteers and EJRP as well.

Arbor Day or June as Tree Walk 2025 as target.

Aspects of this project needing attention are:

1. Budget for project
2. New vision of walk
3. Outdoor sign design and creation
4. Signs on trees and purchasing
5. QR codes on main map and trees
6. The information to be accessed through the PR codes/websites
7. New printed maps
8. Audio version
9. Miscellaneous

## VII. Arbor Day

Nick is in contact with Fleming's principal and has 3 teams that are interested in helping with Arbor Day. Will aim for the first Friday in May or so. Need to decide on the location of planting there. Hoping students can research about trees and climate change. Steve will be happy to help.

## VIII. 2024 TAC Calendar

Nicole put a [folder](#) together to capture info for PSAs.

Will aim for a Tree [planting article](#) and announcement for a workshop that may be in April.

<b>January</b> -Planning Calendar and setting up folder-complete
<b>February</b> -Public Education around Tree Work/Trimming (Winter is the time to reach out to arborist)-incomplete
<b>March</b> -Public Education around Thinking about planting a tree (So, you want to plant a tree)
<b>April</b> - Tree Sale /National Arbor Day
<b>May</b> -Tree Planting /VT Arbor Day @ named school–Mulching, etc.
<b>June</b> -Tree Walk BOB
<b>July</b> -Public Education around Tree Planting/Maintenance/Watering

<b>August</b> -Advertise Tree Contest
<b>September</b> -Form Submission for Tree Contest open after Labor Day
<b>October</b> -Judging and Announcement of Tree Contest Winner
<b>November</b> -Public Education around Trees in Fall (Best Handling of Leaves, etc)
<b>December</b> -Public Education around Tree Decorating/Tradition of Cutting down Christmas Tree

## **IX. Landscape Plans**

Nick has plans that were discussed as projects that he and Warren have had some input on. Planning and zoning has us included in projects with an eye on landscaping.

**17 Park St**-continuation of building design (Old Domino's) similar to building with Boxcar Bakery that will have parking as well. TJ Boyle and Assoc has a plan for landscaping that Warren reviewed. Detail on tree grates and Silva Cells or Structural Soils for trees was requested by Warren.

**8 RR**-next to Essex Agency, narrow structure with landscape with plans for a fire pit and bbq for residents and there's another meeting about that plan in March.

## **X. Other Business**

Tree Walk for EJ may be every other year and the next may be a re-opening of the Maple Street Park June 2025.

## **XI. Date for Next Meeting**

The Committee will meet on March 19, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

Steve made a motion to adjourn at 5:44 pm, 2nd by Warren.