

Essex Junction Tree Advisory Committee

February 27, 2025 Meeting Notes

Attendees: Max Seaton, Waren Spinner, Nick Meyer (Chair), Leslie Goldring, Andrea Shortsleeve (Notetaker)

Meeting Commenced at 4:00, Brownell Library

Agenda:

1. Minutes Approved
 - a. May 2024 Notes
 - b. January 2025 Notes

2. Ash Remediation Program Updates
 - a. WS provided an update on the completed activities the TAC has accomplished in the 'Ash-ville' areas of the Junction. In total, the committee has removed 97 ash trees (with the help of the City's public works crew) and planted 87 trees of various species to replace the removed ash. This was done with the help of an Urban and Community Forests (UCF) grant.
 - b. For 2025, the TAC is planning on removing and replacing 24 additional ash trees in the 'Ash-ville' area. Eighteen of these trees will be paid for by the UCF grant, the rest will come out of our nursery in cooperation with Branch Out Burlington.
 - c. Currently, there are 78 ash trees remaining in the city on public property, without counting the ash in Maple Street Park
 - d. Signs of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) have been seen on Tyler Drive, both on city-owned and privately-owned property.

3. RFP for EAB Grant
 - a. Opened on 2/12/25 to landscape and tree companies
 - b. Sent to seven contractors, received four bids
 - c. TAC will be following up with companies

4. Tree City USA application
 - a. No update, status of the program and funding is currently uncertain due to confusion and disruption at federal level

5. Planting Locations for Spring 2025 – Resident Outreach
 - a. 11 trees need homes
 - b. Ideas:
 - i. Cushing Cul-du-Sac
 - ii. Mansfield Ave
 - iii. Wilkenson – NM will reach out
 - iv. First Congregation Church, Main Street
 - v. Brownell Library
 - vi. Old Colchester Road
 - vii. ADL
 - viii. Iroquois Ave – AS will reach out when available
6. Arbor Day Events
 - a. TAC will donate one tree each to Hiawatha and Flemming Schools
7. One Main Street Park
 - a. No current grant, pre-application is with the Development Review Board.
Looks like there are plans for shade sails and large planters.
 - b. NM will connect with Landscape architect.
8. TAC Events
 - a. Tree Walk at St. Michaels College
 - i. WS, NM, & Steve Reeves are working on this
 - b. Maple Street Park Tree Walk
 - i. Waiting until snow is gone, LG is working on it
9. Additional Items
 - a. NM & WS brought pizza to the public works department to say thank you for all their help in planting, removing, and maintaining trees to help the TAC
 - b. There will be workshops coming up available on Zoom covering EAB in Communities, Tree Warden Ordinances & Policies, etc. NS will send out details.
10. Adjourned at 5:15 pm
 - a. Next Meeting will be held on March 27th at 4:00