

Essex May Minutes Essex Tree Committee 5/21/2024

In attendance: Nick Myer Warren Spinner Rich Boyers Steve Rivard Max Seaton Leslie Goldring.

Spring Planting Update: 25 trees planted mostly in the Cascade St and Tyler St neighborhoods as well as Cascade Park and Mansfield Ave (replacement) and 47 Main St. All mulched and with Gator Bags. City to water weekly or as needed.

Celebration Maple planted in Cascade Park as a donation to the Seaton family. Potential for Fall planting (mid to end of October) of 10 trees from the Branch out Burlington Tree Nursery. Trees of low risk for fall planting will be chosen. Still more to be planned next spring.

18 more trees to be planted in the Cascade, Tyler, Lavoie, neighborhood. These will be paid for from our EAB grant. Public works is removing some of the Ash trees. Calls received from homeowners in this neighborhood asking to remove trees on private property. The City will not honor these requests for private property work. However the Tree Committee may offer to donate trees as replacements in the future. Warren and Nick will meet with Elise Schadler from the Vt Urban and Community Forestry Organization as follow up to the EAB grant and steps being taken to fulfill requirements.

Arbor Day Planting: Hiawatha School planting enthusiastically attended by Alice Weston's class and 2 other 3rd grade classes. In class presentation by Nick and Steve on the benefits of Trees Nick to check size of next year's donated tree from Horsfords. It was noted that Ms Weston's enthusiasm could lead to this location being a School Tree Campus USA in the future.

Committee Policies: Current Essex Policy needs review as to Tree Warden status with the State of Vermont. The Committee will offer our policy to be checked by the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Organization. The Committee will be asking for training and demo's on the new State Tree Inventory Software.

Calendar: 2nd Tuesday of the months of May through September (inclusive) Weeding and Maintenance will be held at 5 30 pm at the Branch Out Burlington tree Nursery. Awesome Tree Contest September event to be led by Rich Boyers. Potential for a Tree Walk in Maple Street Park TBD. Mary Jo Engle may be able to help with the QR codes necessary for this project. Handicap accessible needs to be addressed. Nicole was meeting with Brian Japp who is interested in helping. Next meeting on June 18 maybe a work session along West St. No meeting in July. TAC will place ornamental grass and flowers in the round planters in front of the Firebird Cafe.

Developments: Park St upcoming building, developer is against use of Silva Cells. The Committee will use the example of the poor tree growth in front of BoxCar Bakery as examples of no Silva Cells used. Developers continue to disregard TAC suggestions, It was discussed that our committee is advisory only. We are on record as to having warned the developers..

Other Business: Calls have been received about the trees in Steven's Park. Rain garden plantings along the walking path across from the Amtrak Station need to be pruned. City is responsible for this.

Motion to adjourn at 6 pm by Rich seconded by Warren.