

**City of Essex Junction  
Tree Advisory Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
April 16, 2024**

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

Guest: Leslie Goldring, Maggie Massey of Development Review Board (DRB).

**I. Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm by Nick, second by Warren.

**II. Additions or Amendments to Agenda**

No additions

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the March 2024 meeting minutes was made by Warren, second by Steve.

**IV. Tree Planting 2024**

Nick and Warren have been out looking at spots. Warren reports about a spring tree planting with identified areas including in areas where Ash trees were removed. The grant will help replace 18 trees in the future. We have trees in the BOB nursery. Could have as many as 60 trees in the next few years. Mansfield Ave, Cascade Park and Old Colchester Road are spots. Public Works could help with digging trees in the nursery and bringing them to their workshop yard and tree planting contractor could pick them up from there.

Have gotten feedback from citizens wondering why their private ash trees are not being removed or replaced. There is info posted on the City's website to help assist citizens with ash trees on their property. The City will be able to respond with more formal literature in conjunction with City Council and Regina. Could help in the future with providing trees but TAC is not in a position to provide trees currently.

**V. UCF Emerald Ash Borer Grant**

In addition to above, TAC hopes that with the benefit of tree numbers with the grant, TAC may expand areas where we can knock on doors and tell citizens what TAC is doing and then ask if they would like a tree.

**VI. Arbor Day**

Now the event will be at Hiawatha School, the site of last year's Arbor Day. They are very enthusiastic about collaborating again. They are doing a big forestry day. The planting will be May 3rd at 1 pm.

## **VII. Update TAC Policies**

It has been 10 years since the policy has been reviewed. TAC will review the tree policy as outlined on the website and look into discussing and reviewing it in the next few months at a meeting.

## **VIII. Tree Training Workshop 4/10/24**

There were a few people attending the event and it went well. Would have liked more in attendance but the material was well done.

TAC would like to continue more outreach on FB, FPF, webpage, Essex Reporter in general.

## **IX. Development Applications**

Maggie from DRB introduced herself and wanted to attend to discuss concerns TAC has with future developing attention on trees.

TAC encouraged DRB to encourage amending soils with silva cells or other engineered soils so that there is sustainability for the trees. Warren and Nick gave further input.

**17 Park St-** TAC has concerns about trees being planted and how. 4 Pearl St/Park St corner with 4 trees that had silva cells that have done really well. Silva cells do have to be installed properly and timing with the tree planting and maintenance is also important.

**8 RR-** next to Essex Agency, narrow structure with landscape with plans for a fire pit and bbq for residents.

Questions about power lines going down the side since the tall growing trees would be a problem. Maggie states that the developer has said they would go underground after citizen input. Species and soils are important details in regards to sustaining them and those have not been delineated. TAC has concerns with overdevelopment in a smaller area.

**227-229 Pearl St near Wendy's Project** has new landscape plans to be made under new ownership and another project also on Pearl St is in the works.

TAC would like to find the best way to communicate with DRB.

## **X. Events**

May 3rd is Hiawatha Arbor Day at 1 p.m.

May 4th is the Branch Out Burlington nursery tree planting from 9-11 a.m. and TAC plans to attend with as many members as possible.

May 23rd Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Arbor Day Conference where the Tree City USA awards are given out.

**XI. Other Business**

Memorial planting for Max's daughter with a celebration tree on May 10th at 6 p.m. in Cascade Park. Consideration for a seat to be built and a plaque could be placed on it in conjunction with EJRP.

Nicole has announced that she will be resigning from the committee in May as her family is moving from Vermont.

**XI. Date for Next Meeting**

The Committee will meet on May 21, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Nick made a motion to adjourn at 5:54 pm, 2nd by Rich.

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**2024 TAC Calendar**

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

Will aim for a Tree [planting article](#)

<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 Planting 5/4 at BOB
<b>May</b> -VT Arbor Day @ named school–Mulching, etc.
<b>June</b> -Tree Walk/????

**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