

**City of Essex Junction
Tree Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting
August 20, 2024**

Members Present: Leslie Goldring, Nick Meyer, Steve Rivard, Max Seaton, Andrea Shortsleeve, Warren Spinner, and Rich Boyers

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 by Nick.

2. Additions or Amendments to Agenda

Nick shared that due to renovations of 2 Lincoln Hall, TAC meetings will shift to the Brownell Library beginning with our October 22 meeting at 4:30.

3. Welcome New TAC Members

The committee welcomed Leslie Goldring and Andrea Shortsleeve to the committee. The committee is thrilled to have the contributions of the two new members.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve April meeting minutes was made by Warren, second by Steve.

5. Public to Be Heard

No additions by the public.

6. The Essex Junction Greatest Tree Contest.

Rich updated the committee about the contest. Northfield Savings Bank generously donated \$200 for prizes. The contest will run through September. The tentative date for the committee to judge the submissions is October 9.

7. EAB Grant and Fall/Spring Planting Locations

Warren provided an update regarding the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) grant. The \$30,000 grant will be used for the removal of 18 trees and replanting. The planting will take place in the spring. The grant only covers the planting of trees on public property. Warren also shared that there are 38 trees ready to be pulled from the nursery. Some plantings could occur this fall with the remaining in the spring. Some of these trees could be planted on private property. In addition to the planting focused on the Wilkinson/Tyler neighborhood, the committee discussed other possible areas to target for planting.

8. EAB Statement Request

The city requested that TAC help draft a uniform EAB statement for residents whose ash trees are located on their property. The statement should inform private property owners of their

responsibility to cover the cost of removal of ash trees on their property. The city could assist with the planting of new trees.

9. Master Plan Invitation

Nick shared that TAC was invited to participate in a study regarding a master plan for future development in the Five Corners and Rt 15 corridor. The hope is to promote more bike paths and community meeting spaces.

9. Calendar Updates

The committee will begin to revise the tree policies in November. The committee will be scheduling time for a tutorial on Google Docs.

Adjournment

Nick made a motion to adjourn at 6:00, Second by Rich.