

Essex Tree Committee Minutes October 29 2024

In attendance Warren Spinner, Nick Meyer, Steve Rivard , Rich Boyer, Leslie Goldring, Andrea Shortsleeve, Max Seaton, Ashley Snellenberger, Mark Kalloz.

Welcome Nick opened with welcome comments.

Agenda Additions none

Public to be heard, none

August minutes approved.

Greatest Tee Contest: Rich Boyer welcomed the Greatest Tree contest winners, with short background on the contest, and expressed appreciation to Northfield Savings Bank for their generous donation. “The greatest tree contest continues to inspire our residents to connect with and appreciate the natural beauty around us” said Mr Boyer. Warren also welcomed the winners and spoke of the attributes of the tree submissions. Nick gave short history and background of the Essex tree committee, and its mission. examples are advocate for trees for the city, advising land use committee and development reviews and accountability. Nick also reiterated good cooperation from public works department and reminded the group we can plant trees on private property with limitations.

1st place : 1st place honors went to a Freeman's Maple tree located at 6 school St. nominated by Hugh Gibson.

2nd place: 2nd place winner is a Red Oak tree located at 12 Hillcrest Rd. nominated by Tim Kemerer

3rd place: Is a sugar Maple tree located at 5 summit St. nominated by Beth Paul.

Each winning tree has been recognized not only for its beauty but also for it’s importance in enhancing our communities environment. 1st place winner received a \$100 prize while the runners up were awarded \$50 each generously donated by the Northfield Savings Bank.

Fall planting: 9 trees to be planted at Maple street park, within the next two weeks. 38 trees must come out of the Branch Out Burlington nursery. Warren covered the memorial planting of a Matador Maple tree at Essex High School in memory of deceased math teacher Art Pellerin.

EAB Grant: Ash tree removal continues on Hayden Wilkinson Lavoie Cushing streets with interplanting of new varied species.

Land Development Code Changes: Request from Chris Yeun Development Director regarding Tri-plexes and Four- Plexes to promote more dense housing. Requests recommendations and guidance as to trees on small lots, setbacks, and screening. Our committee will work with him on these initiatives.

Calendar: Steve has volunteered to be custodian of the calendar with help from Leslie. Mary Jo Engle may return to our group and lead a tree walk, Leslie and Max expressed interest in helping. Google Doc Training will be led by Rich in November it is suggested to bring a laptop to this meeting.

Connect Essex Jct Initiative Workshop: Nick attended and took part in the downtown walk as part of the proposed revamp of the downtown development structure. The group is seeking a new downtown master transportation plan. One example floated was the increase of green space at Veterans Memorial Park.

Policies: Warren, Andrea, and Ashely, will form a committee to revisit our policies and be sure they align with new updated State Rules and Regulations, at which time it will be necessary to update our webpage.

Next Meeting: Nov 21 4 pm in the Kolvoord Room at the Brownell Public Library.