

Bowdoinham Tree Committee Meeting Minutes, March 4, 2026

Attending: Jan Marks (chair), Hank Ogilby (secretary), Susan Drucker, Francis Drummond, Peggy Christian, Mark Tanner, Mike Roland, Nina Mendall

1 - Meeting Called to Order at: 6:03

2 - Review of 2/4 Minutes: no modifications, motion to approve, seconded, approved.

3 - Agenda Items:

- Jan reviewed CPC comments re: our proposal. She stated that the CPC thought it wasn't a complete tree plan, and that maybe we should just become a standing committee.
- The question was posed: "Wasn't this always our aim?"
- ~~Comment: "No, the goal was to form an ad hoc committee to create a tree plan."~~
- ~~It was decided that a permanent standing committee should be part of our plan.~~
- Jan: "There was confusion around this all along."
- As put forth in an email to the committee, Jan reiterated that she was resigning from the committee, and thus stepping down from her chairperson role.
- Jan then proposed the notion that, 'this is where we are now, and we need to decide on a new chair.' (Not a direct quote.)
- Several people asked if we needed to decide on a new chair at this point, before deciding on our next steps forward?
- Several people asked Jan if he could chair this meeting. Jan agreed.
- Various questions were raised:
 - Should we even move forward at all? Should we disband?
 - Should we regroup and draft an actual tree plan as desired by the CPC?
 - Or, should we move forward in some other way?
 - It was raised that the Select Board has not seen our proposal... should we take what we have to them, and see what they think?
 - It was determined that the CPC was looking at this process very differently than we ever did, thus the concluding results.
 - Jan read/reviewed our initial mandate, the initial proposal to the Select Board for a tree committee.
 - Several members felt unfamiliar with this specific wording/mandate.
 - The initial goal was to prepare a document, as put forth in this initial mandate, to the Select Board to be ready for Town Meeting, 2026.
 - This seems no longer possible.
 - Joanne Joy was the initiator on the Select Board... Peggy has contacted her to ask if she would meet with any/all of us.

- It was determined that we needed to decide on a direction from this point forward:
 - Should we vote to decide to continue or to give up?
 - Should we continue to draft/prepare a tree care plan?
 - Discussion ensued, and it was mentioned that while we didn't accomplish everything from the mandate, our proposal did include much of what they asked for.
 - Maybe the first, next step should be to create an established, staffed committee.
 - It was put forth that the first step should be a commitment from the Select Board to create an actual committee.
 - However, it was proposed that the Select Board would not approve what we have as is.
- Many comments/questions were added:
 - We could have added more specifics to our plan... more of an outline as to how a tree plan would be executed.
 - Was this committee created under the aegis of the CPC?
 - It made perfect sense to focus on Village District 1.
 - Why do we have to be a formal standing committee? Why can't we exist under the umbrella of another committee (ie. CPC, or Cemetery Committee)?
 - Do we want to go forward?
 - It was the 4 old maples in the school cemetery that was the first domino that fell leading to the desire for a tree committee.
 - Can we continue on as an ad hoc sub-committee of the CPC?
 - The Cemetery Committee does need to do some tree research etc...
 - We do need a plan for the future and to have a vision for our municipal trees.
 - Hank stated that he didn't want us to vote on an option that would take us down the same path that we've been struggling with: our vision vs. the CPC's vision.
 - Maybe our struggle all along was dealing with our "process" of this vs. creating a plan that the CPC envisioned.
 - The CPC stated that our proposal was to create a tree committee.
 - It was put forth that we did create the outline for the work of a future committee.
 - It was brought forth that some people on this committee might not want to be on a future tree committee, but are willing to continue to work on proposing a plan.
 - It was stated that, yes, we could change the document, revise the introduction and add more specifics... but this might still not be what the CPC wants.
 - It was brought up that no matter what we do, we might not have the support of the Select Board.
 - The question was raised that, if we want support from the select board, should we then speak with Joanne Joy who initiated this whole process?
- The question was raised as to whether we should vote on this (meeting with Joanne) as a first step? It was seconded, and approved by all.

- Question: Shall we invite her to our April meeting?
- Answer: Yes, let's invite her! That would allow us to formulate a future path.
- The motion was put forth, seconded and approved.
- **Peggy volunteered to contact Joanne and invite her to our April 1 meeting.**
- Peggy also volunteered to chair the net meeting, and do the tech elements.
- Peggy shared a few more thoughts regarding our plan, various other justifications for the existence of a committee, various financial ramifications, etc...

4 - Conclusions:

- **Peggy will invite Joanne to our next meeting (4/1), and forward to the committee all relevant documents (eg. the document from the Select Board that Jan shared during this meeting).**

5 - Meeting Adjourned at 6:45

Faithfully submitted by

Hank Osley