

# **Bowdoinham Tree Committee**

## **Minutes, May 6, 2026**

### **1. Call to Order: 6:06pm**

**Attending:** Peggy Christian (chair), Hank Ogilby (secretary), Susan Drucker, Francis Drummond, Mark Tanner, Mike Roland, Joanne Joy (Select Board) **Absent:** Nina Mendall

### **2. Review 4/1/26 minutes: amendments? Motion to approve?**

No changes... motion... seconded... and approved.

### **3. Additions or changes to the agenda:**

Future participation of members was brought up. It was felt that this would be discussed in the natural course of the meeting.

### **4. Discussion: thoughts on CPC response for our plan to be a part of the CPC Open Space Plan.**

Questions? Comments?

"I thought it was strange..."

"They seemed to prefer a policy over a plan... but didn't see it fitting in the CPC, or the Open Space Plan."

Joanne: "What would a policy include?"

Discussion ensued as to whether we could change our plan into a policy.

A policy would go directly in front of the Select Board, and they would say "yea" or "nay".

Jason and the Rec. Board have done this... but he and his department did end up enacting it... ie. not a policy that someone else would have to enact.

Joanne: the tree sub-committee was created to create a plan... not a policy.

We could go to the Select Board and ask to change from creating a plan to creating a policy.

Discussion ensued as to what would be in a policy.

It was stated that a policy has a greater chance of getting a "flat no" from the Board.

Mike outlined a direction of a policy based upon what we have done so far.

The Board did approve us, so maybe we present them with our plan, and then ask: "Do you want us to create any policy initiatives from this?"

Joanne: complete the plan, and then present it to the Board, and then ask if creating any sort of policy is warranted. Anything that might cost money, that isn't already in the budget, will not get approved. So, presenting our plan, maybe with some tweaks, is more likely to be accepted

The question was raised: "So, can we bypass the CPC?"

Joanne suggested that we notify the CPC, and then go to the Board.

Discussion ensued as to how things happened with the housing committee, esp. v/v having no staff person on the committee.

We all agreed that we have not stated the importance of trees to the town, and the Board, strongly or consistently enough.

It was raised that any plan would have to be approved in 2027 Town Mtg., BUT the Board, if made aware of the plan and its initiatives, might be supportive, and could act accordingly until then.

This year's Town Mtg. is Wednesday, June 10.

Discussion ensued around our current plan vs. what it should look like (v/v Joanne) for better public appeal/digestion etc... ie. sections for cemeteries, the waterfront parks, adding some headings (whatever headings we think would highlight the plan's elements).

Frank: What is the relationship between presenting a plan vs. presenting a proposal to create a committee?

Answer (JJ): this could be one of our recommendations. We could add a titled section called "Recommendations", and include the creation of a committee there.

We'll probably have to go to the select board twice: once to introduce ourselves, our year's work, and our plan (after revisions have been made), then again later, after further PR with the Board, town and citizens, with our final copy of a plan in time for next Town Meeting (6/27).

There will also probably have to be a public meeting in between each presentation to the Board.

Joanne: The presentation to the Board should have slides, be concise and to the point. And the presentation to the public should include some sort of survey to get community feedback.

Also, we should get the tree maintenance plan for Riverfront Park, to make sure our plan dovetails with theirs, especially with their concepts of "Overarching Best practice".

When we do all this work, we should focus on "broad brush strokes" (JJ).

**5. Discussion:** Do we continue to create a plan or do we pivot to a policy?

- The discussion clearly led us away from policy, and back towards our plan.

**6. Action items based on our decision in #4, above (refining our plan):**

- Susie and Joanne will edit/revise/rewrite the plan we currently have.
- This revised plan should come to us within 10 days (+/-) before our next meeting.
- Shall we meet in June or July?
- Joanne: Be sure to go to the Board (even 1 person) to give an update soon.
- Shoot for June 23rd meeting, or July 14th (they meet 2nd and 4th Tuesdays)
- Either is good because they are both after Town Meeting.
- Mark: As far as continuing participation, I might stick around... drop me an email, and keep me in the loop.

**7. Discussion: EAB** – As far as EAB work/communication, do we ask to become an official sub-committee or do we become a citizens' group?

- If we choose to become a committee, we'll have many hoops to jump through.
- If we stay as a citizens' group, we can go a bit "rogue". We can do all that we want to educate, and push the town to take action.

- Frank: We need to focus on education, providing the town with information so that they have enough direction to ask/answer questions.
- Joanne: Contact Nicole and say that we have some vital info. - we can go directly to the Board, and/or we can speak up during public comment.
- JJ: BUT, get information into the Bowdoinhammer, and try and get stuff into the town office, and maybe post things at recycling...
- We should start with showing up for public comment time (5/12, 5/26, 6/9).
- Frank was voluntold to do this... he agreed... ('ish).
- Discussion ensued as to what he might/should say.
- Frank will go on the 26th (Thank you SO much Frank!!!) - other members are encouraged to attend/support.

#### **8. Action items based on items in #6:**

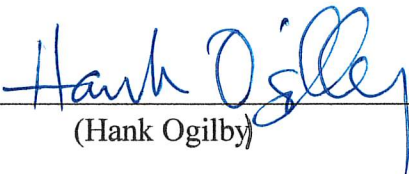
- See below.

#### **9. Quick review of future participation, next steps and assignments:**

- Identified above, in #'s 4, 6 & 7.
- Peggy will contact Rodney about getting something in the Bowdoinhammer, at least a link/something about EAB, and maybe an 'all call' for folks interested in EAB work. If interested, they can write to Peggy.
- Thus, and maybe, the Rogue EAB group might end up being a new organization...
- The deadline for The Bowdoinham News is 5/29. Mike volunteered to write an article.
- [https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest\\_health/invasive\\_threats/index.htm](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/invasive_threats/index.htm)
- [Should we take all EAB action plans out of meeting minutes that get sent to town? Anything that points to "EAB Citizen Action Group"?]
- The answer was "No" - it's part of our mission as a Tree Committee.
- We are planning on meeting next month, pending our revised plan, that will be communicated to all.
- We should all look for EAB communication/documents/flyers to make available at Town meeting.
- Peggy will contact Colleen and try to get her slide show in order to link to our information sources.

#### **10. The Meeting was Adjourned @ 7:04pm**

Minutes Approved at June 3 Meeting. Signed by Secretary

  
 (Hank Ogilby)