

## **Municipal Tree Plan Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes - 8/6/25**

**Attending:** Jan Marks, Peggy Christian, Nina Mendall, Frank Drummond, Hank Ogilby,  
Susan Drucker, Mark Tanner

**Absent:** Justin Schlawin

**Facilitator:** Jan Marks

**Secretary:** Hank Ogilby

#### **1. Meeting was called to order:**

- Peggy offered and addition to agenda/resource:

Maine Dept. of Ag. presentation on EAB, Sept. 11, 9:30 - 12pm (in Camden, live and Zoom)

#### **2. Review of previous minutes (7/2/25)**

- Motion was made to approve, seconded and approved

#### **3. Update on EAB talk**

- Time is established at 7pm (September 15, at Merrymeeting Hall)
- Questions arose about liability regarding falling ash trees and neighboring properties
- Mark responded: anything to do with public safety is the town's responsibility
- Questions about whether the town is thinking about/planning for this
- Frank: CMP won't help unless it comes down on a line... all sorts of nuances and complications for their ability to respond
- Discussion of PR for the EAB presentation:  
Informational poster to post around town before hand... and hand-out  
Hank volunteered to draft one, and run it by Frank (draft of poster will be shared 9/3)
- Also, we should research the use of the Merrymeeting Hall sandwich board to put out on Sept. 13, with EAB presentation info (Peggy will contact Jan H.)
- Discussion of posting financial benefits of ash trees (after 9/15 talk... we would be asking for volunteers to tag trees in town, with labels and value of each tree... Jan Santerre can help us do this)
- Discussion ensued as to how useful this would be, especially vis-a-vis the veracity of financial estimates... as opposed to the material/eco-system services that we could list on each tree
- All this may be entertained as part of our future or long-term plan... Peggy will continue to explore this through Jan Santerre, and "i-Tree Eco"
- Should we use the Dutch Elm info as a model...??? Mark may look this up.

#### 4. Plans for Celebrate Bowdoinham

- Peggy will continue to contact the state to get hand-outs etc...
- CPC will give us a side of their table at Celebrate
- Arbor Day has a list of publications...
- Should we have a flyer/contact information about our committee itself?
- Clipboard with sign-up sheet for our committee?
- Pictures of the EAB, and damaged ash trees?
- An FAQ sheet... with someone there to answer Q's?
- We should have it staffed all day...
- We should finalize these plans at our September Mtg. (Sept. 3)

#### 5. Items to include in Municipal Tree Plan

- We reviewed Jan's "Suggested Tree Plan" items
- Project Canopy can help us develop a plan
- Discussion ensued regarding the authority this committee may or may not have
- How much do we want to "bite-off" with the first steps of our plan
- How much of this is really about the CPC open space plan, and/or a specific ordinance (v/v larger developments)... this may bump into zoning ordinance issues
- Towns/Cities do have such ordinances, conservation plans (Mark)
- Lakefront towns do have such ordinances (Frank), but do other towns? If so, we should look at their plans as a template
- Proposal to divide this list into "Step 1" items... and then into "future" items
- Maybe our next agenda should be focused upon "defining our committee", and identifying which items on this list will be our "Step 1" items
- Discussed ensued regarding the "advisory" nature of the committee and how we execute/share our "advice"
- We will need buy-in from the Select Board and the Town Manager
- In the long run maybe we need to be pushing forward to create a "Conservation Commission"
- Dividing Labor: Intro (Jan) - Define the Nature of Our Committee. We are an advisory committee and our task is to provide a report to the town in line with our mission statement - What is best practice for the town's municipal trees?
- Discussion spread to trees fronting the river
- It seemed decided that we should limit our scope to "Village District 1"
- Susie: We should identify the areas of greatest need and vulnerability
- Susie: The new waterfront is already not looking great
- Maybe part of our long-term goal should be to create a conservation committee, that gathers volunteers to work on care and maintenance
- We need to do something to catch the attention of the Select Board, so that they can budget for this, and staff it, and publicize it to the broader community

- Part of the plan must include how we will communicate with the Board, the Town, and the public... and vice-versa, regarding best practices for municipal trees
- Should we talk to Nicole (or Yvette) about what the town's plan is for follow-up with projects like the new waterfront? Will this be supported by TIFF \$? The Town Budget? A grant ? Volunteers?
- Question: Do we want to propose a "Conservation Committee"?
- Answer: We need to read and study more before we take this step
- But... If we go this way, we may be totally changing our focus
- Mark can get a conservation plan from Portsmouth, NH
- What direction/role for this committee would the Select Board be more open to?
- Aside: Should we make our own "Municipal Tree" map of the town? Should we try to enlist the school to get more allies? (Susie mentioned this, a reference to the work of "Vibrant Cities")
- Jan will get a map of District 1 for the Sept. 3 Mtg.
- Frank will research whether Project Canopy is still up and running (able to support us)

6. Review Freeport Tree Plan - tabled

7. New/Other Business - none

8. Adjourned at 7:41 pm

Hank Osley  
 - SECRETARY (HANK OSLEY)

