

Bowdoinham Municipal Tree Plan Committee

Meeting Minutes

9/3/25

ATTENDING: ALL
CHAIR: JAN MARKS

1 - Review/Approve Previous Minutes - a motion was made, August minutes were approved

2 - Review/Amend Meeting Agenda - Frank reviewed the grant process/schedule for Project Canopy, and will be able to report out. The question was raised about the relevance of reviewing the Freeport Tree Plan at this point

3 - Plans for Celebrate - What to bring/staffing etc... Peggy ordered 50 brochures for the table at the waterfront, she'll order 50 more for the town office.

Staffing at the CPC table: Peggy, set-up; Nina 1-2; Mark 11-1; Jan 2:30 to 4

Should we have a document that outlines who we are?

A sign-up sheet for participation, minutes etc...?

Should we have a sandwich board/newsprint with markers to collect ideas, input etc...?

Frank will go to the waterfront and see if there's an ash tree there for ID/PR etc...

4 - Planning for EAB Seminar

Hank drafted posters... edits were made and passed back; Hank will edit and ask the town to print.

Peggy will use the Merrymeeting Hall sandwich board to post meeting info.

Let's meet there around 6pm to set up.

5 - Project Canopy (PC) Update (addition from Frank)

They will sponsor a walk in Belfast on the 12th - the walk will focus on helping people ID spruce budworm.

Their grant info has been updated: all grants are due by 10/30 for calendar year (2/21/26 - 12/30/27).

There are 3 dif. types of grants: assistance, planning and education. "Education" seems to be our best bet: up to \$20,000 in total, planting maintenance (up to \$15,000). Funding comes from the Inflation Reduction act (the only one that does not require a match, but will it still exist??). The first 2 ("assistance" & "planning") require a \$ match (ie. if we ask for \$20,000, we need to have \$10,000). The inflation reduction act is aimed towards "disadvantaged communities"? Do we qualify? Is there a list for these communities?

No way we can get matching funds from the town at this point...

Thus, the "Education"/Inflation Reduction option is our only real choice - does PC have a grant writing workshop? How onerous is the grant form/process?

Are we being premature, especially since we are not yet approved by the town, nor do we have a clear direction/action plan?

So, let's create our plan first, and then within our plan/presentation to the Board we can include info. Re: Project Canopy and the \$ available.

Can anyone from Project Canopy advise us as we go forward, without having to have a grant?

Should we contact the Maine Forest Service (because they are the ones who advise Project Canopy)?

6 - Beginning Item in Municipal Tree Plan (MTP)

Mission Statement

Intro - some edits were made... (ie. removed "shoppers" etc... Jan will re-write)

A motion was made to approve, seconded and passed

7 - Other Elements to Include in MTP

Membership - we are all CPC members

5-9 members

Shall we ID membership/jobs? Not needed.

The committee shall elect a chair, vice-chair and secretary

Shall we ID terms of service?

Do our terms end when our proposed plan is accepted? And then, a new committee may be formed?

CPC term of membership is three years,

What is the Committee Structure/Scope? The committee shall be an advisory committee.

At this point our focus will be on Village District 1 only

Definitions - so far we have defined a "municipal tree" and a "heritage tree"

Future Tasks/Elements/Wording to add to our plan -

What is meant by/is entailed within:

Document/Survey - tabled to future meeting

Preservation, Maintenance, Removal, Planting, Replacement

Protection from Pests/Disease

Education

Assessment

A goal might be, down the road, might be to create a "conservation commission", thus some of our wording might be moot, so let's keep it general

A vote to approve the Structure and Scope Document was made, seconded, and approved.

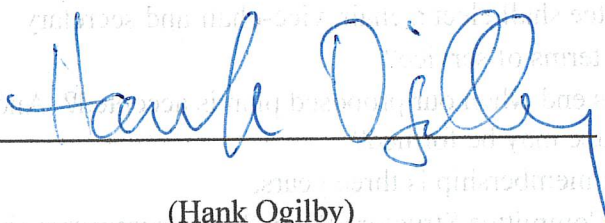
8 - Review Freeport Tree Plan - tabled to Oct. 1

9 - Assignments for next meeting - tabled to next meeting

Hank will distribute flyers to Peggy

Frank raised the question of an ex-officio member who has "expertise"...?
Discussion ensued about Mark's expertise.

10 - The meeting was adjourned at: 7:35pm

Faithfully Submitted: 
(Hank Ogilby)