

Bowdoinham Municipal Tree Plan Committee

Meeting Minutes - Oct. 1, 2025

Attending: Jan Marks (Chair), Peggy Christian, Nina Mendall, Susan Drucker,
Frank Drummond, Hank Ogilby (Secretary), Mike Roland

Absent: Mark Tanner, Justin Schlawin

1. A motion was made to approve the Sept. 3 minutes. The motion was seconded, and then voted upon. Minutes approved.
2. No amendments were added to the agenda. Jan clarified our goals for the meeting:
 - crafting a proposed municipal tree care plan
 - when completed, presenting this to the CPC
 - planning an open forum for review
 - then presenting to the Select Board
 - If approved, then working to get the plan on the warrant for town meeting
3. Review of committee member efforts at "Celebrate", and the EAB forum:
 - many citizens were positive about the town's need for a tree care plan as well as for experts to review our tree care practices.
 - Attendance at the EAB presentation was low
 - Colleen Teerling was excellent and quite informative
 - Jan has Colleen's slide deck that we can share as needed (will be discussed in future)
 - Maybe we can put it on the town website? Peggy will speak with Nicole and Yvette
 - Should we post it on You Tube? No, there already is a LOT of info available
 - Should we connect it with the library's website? Maybe.
 - Maybe we should have an EAB article in every town newsletter? Maybe.
 - Frank reported a major EAB infestation in Freeport (Shaw's parking lot)
4. Review of Freeport Tree Plan:
 - we had a loose discussion of each sub-topic
 - we discussed town ordinances vis-a-vis new developments
 - we discussed various issues related to pests, public work actions, taking down and chipping wood etc...
5. Discussion of elements and tasks connected to the completion of a Municipal Tree Plan:
Later in the meeting committee members volunteered (*name*) to draft wording for each topic.
 - Mission (completed)
 - Introduction (Nina)
 - Definitions (Jan)
 - Document and Survey (Frank)
 - Preserve: maintenance, removal, replanting, new planting (Hank)
(Including protection from pests and diseases)

- Communication (Peggy)
- Education (Jan)
- ~~Assessment~~
- Costs/Finances (Susan)
- Structure of Committee (Jan)

These topics were all reviewed, discussed and revised.

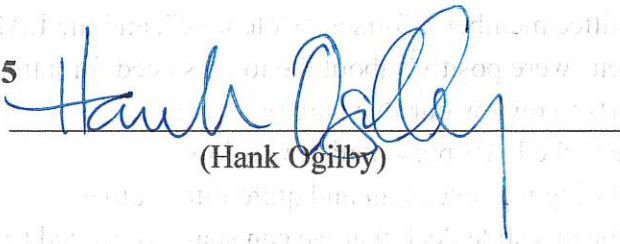
The question was raised: do we want a "tree committee" or a "conservation committee" (which has stronger legal authority). The state defines what a conservation committee is and what it can and cannot do. A tree committee is only subject to the mandate/powers that the town chooses to give it.

Further discussion ensued as to the focus and scope of each task. The suggestion was made that drafts for each section were to be sent to Hank by Oct. 31. Hank would then organize them all into one google.doc so that we could review and edit at our next meeting (Nov. 5).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38

Minutes Approved on Nov. 5

Faithfully submitted by:



(Hank Ogilby)