

**Montpelier Tree Board
Draft Minutes February 7, 2019
Memorial Room, City Hall**

Attending: Sarah, Jac, James, Ken, Steve, John S., John A.

Approval of Agenda – added the Tree Board Ordinance discussion; Agenda approved.

Approval of January minutes – January 2019 minutes were approved without change

Comments from the public - none

Old Business:

Tree Board attendees welcomed **new Board member** James Findlay-Shirras. James expressed interest in the nursery and other tasks he can help with.

Parks and Trees Dept update (Jac)

Jac, on behalf of Alec Ellsworth, requests that the Parks & Trees Dept. be allowed to grow some pumpkins on the part of the nursery not currently used for trees (back side). Permission will be granted.

A full time tree person will start in July, 2019.

A full time parks person will start in January, 2020.

John S and John A met with Geoff, Alec, Jac, and Adam (the new part-time Tree person dealing with EAB and hazard trees) to discuss the EAB workplan for this Spring and the work that will be done by the Parks & Trees Dept and the Tree Board.

Tree Festival report (Jac)

Festival of Trees – was very successful with many children involved. See attached summary.

Planning for spring planting locations (John S)

John passed his explanatory brochure intended for residents considering the addition of trees onto their properties.

Streets considered for adding trees include Main, Berlin, Liberty and Barre, possibly more in the Clarendon/Terrace area; scouting possible locations will occur this month and next; finalize planting locations in April with planting assistance to be provided by Parks & Trees.

Planning commission documents: (John S)

John brought various construction design review documents from the International Society of Arboriculture (Best Management Practices) to the meeting for review and discussion. These included

- Managing Trees During Construction
- Root Management
- Tree Planting
- Tree Pruning
- Tree Injection
- Risk Assessment (Hazard Trees)

James will review the Tree Planting Standards; Parks & Trees staff will review Managing Trees during Construction and Risk Assessment BMPs.

The goal is to formally adopt the BMPs and possibly include our take-away summaries for each on the Tree Board website.

EAB communications (John S)

John has put together a listing of what information needs to be provided to the public regarding ash trees and EAB. A subcommittee of John S, John A, and Jac has been formed to prepare this information for the public. John A noted that much of this information is already available in handouts provided by either UVM Extension and/or the ANR Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation. John S. noted that we can use those sources to provide the smaller “bites” of info to provide to the public without overwhelming them.

Tree Board Ordinance Updating

Sarah has volunteered to lead this effort. She will start by providing the current ordinance in a digital format that can be edited. Sarah also volunteered to research signs for tree identification around town.

New Business:

Possible work days: This will be weather-dependent. John S will notify all.

Possible tasks: Planning for spring planting locations, beaver fence trees, prune oaks

Report on the Festival of Trees
27 January 2019

A Zero Waste Event -

3 Clementine bags were put in trash with a few pieces of used painters tape.

All food scraps collected for compost.

Recycled the cider containers. Plates, cups, glasses, forks and napkins rented from CVSWMMD - for \$15

Maxham Room and NBNC rented for \$100 ORCA Media filmed the event - David Eric, videographer

60+ Guests (estimated based on numbers seated for film and numbers standing)

PLUS 15 + volunteers, including 3 Eco-Americorps members, 3 Tree Board volunteers with 4 family members, 1 NBNC staff member, 2 from MSAC, 1 from BJ Synagogue, and a walk-in volunteer and all the folks who made cakes and cookies

~75 total; ~20 children and babies :)

Marketing through Facebook and Montpelier Alive (Jac Huettenmoser)

NBNC Website (Sean Beckett)

Front Porch Forum (various Tree Board Members and Volunteers)

Displays and Groups

1. Tree Board Mission and Activities - John Akielaszek
2. Emerald Ash Borer status and city plan - John Akielaszek
3. Tree Identification by leaf and during the winter - Jacqueline Huettenmoser, John Snell, Abby Collihan
4. VT Urban and Community Forestry Program - Forest Invasives, Joanne Garton
5. Snakeworm Forest Invasives - Josef Gorre and Sarah Hoffmeier
6. Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District - food scraps to soil, Cassandra Hemenway
7. Friends of the Winooski - healthy trees and healthy rivers, Shawn White and Michelle Braun
8. Tu B'Shevat - the origin of the Birthday of Trees Festival; display of tree produce - Ruth Coppersmith
9. Volunteer Recruitment - Ken Libertoff
6 people signed up to volunteer
Oliver and Colleen Crist, Becky Miller, Amy Williams, Catherine Lowther, Shawn
10. Neighborhood Tree Planting - sign up at the front table
1 family signed up for a tree site visit: Sean Sheehan 68 Clarendon Ave,

Activities

1. Face Painting - Sujata Guatam
2. Door prize drawings - many tree books, soil tests, forest pest magnifying book marks, 2 green cone digesters, 2 soil saver composters, 2- 5 gallon food scrap collection buckets, and more ...
donated by CVSWMMD, VT Urban and Community Forestry Program, anonymous donors, Tree Board Members
3. Raffle - raised \$50 - organized by Tree Board volunteer, Carol Montgomery
Bragg and Morse Farms donated maple kettle popcorn, Carol Montgomery donated 2 Iris Paperfold framed cards, Wise Trees book anonymously donated, a bamboo musical instrument and more
4. Happy Birthday to the Trees - in 10 languages - American Sign Language, English, French, Hawaiian, Hebrew, Irish, Italian, Nepalese, Spanish, Ukrainian, and in Vermont by request
5. Taking Root, the story of Wangari Maathai and the Green Belt Movement that planted 34 million trees in Kenya and restored streams, rivers and the ability for people to grow their own food again.
6. Be Your Own Lorax comments - I'll plant a tree; I'll NEVER cut down a tree
Donut mulch not volcano mulch

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