

Montpelier Tree Board Draft Minutes for Meeting on April 4, 2019

Attending Board Members: John S, Sarah, Lynn, Steve, James, Shawn and John A
Also attending from Parks and Trees: Jac, Adam Volunteers: Ken, Tristan

Approval of Agenda - the Agenda was approved with a minor change to the order.

Approval of March Minutes - the March, 2019 minutes were approved with the changes previously suggested by Lynn.

Comments from the public - Ken mentioned during the meeting that he had advocated for planting balsam fir; Lynn indicated that there is one on School Street

Welcome new Board member, Shawn White - Shawn introduced herself; she has a scientific background with degrees in microbiology and botany; she is a member of the Friends of the Winooski (hereafter referred to as Friends) where she has extensive experience with river plantings; the TB Members, City staff, and Volunteers introduced themselves to Shawn.

Old Business: Updates:

Tree City Planning - Lynn provided an update: Tree City Month is May, 2019 and Lynn provided a listing of the Montpelier May Activities for all present. Specifically mentioned at the meeting were the Photography Exhibit at the KHL from May 6th - 31st, the May 2nd Arbor Day Conference (which will include a presentation on stormwater runoff control, Tree Plantings around Montpelier on May 3rd, a film at the Senior Center (to be determined), another film at the KHL entitled Taking Root detailing the planting of 36 million trees in Kenya restoring the natural habitat (May 22) and a KHL Presentation for UES and MMSS on "Be Your Own Lorax" - How to Speak for Trees. (May 29). Also planned are the placement of seven tree signs of differing species of trees around town (signs were displayed at the meeting) along with a guided tour map for visiting (and learning about) the trees. Steve will work on the Q codes for the paper guide map. Jac will do marketing work for the May Tree City festivities, and Shawn indicated that the Friends facebook page could also be used for advertising the events.

Planning for spring planting - John S provided an update: John has proposed planting neighborhood locations for about 100 trees and more are being added. The trees will be delivered by a semi and Geoff is in the process of determining where the semi will drop off the trees and how to get some over to John's house. John has a meeting with Tom McCardle next Friday (April 12) to discuss location of new tree wells downtown. James is gathering information on the design of those tree wells.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB): EAB Management Plan - John A indicated that he has prepared packets for volunteers to use in the re-survey of ash trees this Spring. The packets will include the handwritten information that the same volunteers had submitted last year as an aid to their re-locating the right-of-way ash. John suggested that any new volunteers work with last year's volunteers in their re-survey work and that there are plenty of streets and trees to be re-examined. The re-survey should take less time than the original survey. The consensus at the meeting was that ash trees will not leaf out until later in May, perhaps mid-May. John A will be instructing a CCV class on EAB on May 1st so will have to plan accordingly.

The Green EAB Traps John S ordered have been delivered and are at John A's house. Bear Levangie had previously indicated that she could instruct us on the proper deployment of the traps and we anticipate setting some with her around the time of the Arbor Day Conference (May 2). [Update: Bear has left the company so other company staff will assist us on May 3rd]. We will need the City bucket truck for deploying the traps.

John also indicated that a meeting is scheduled with National Life personnel to discuss the status of their activities relative to EAB since the borer was first located on NL property. The meeting will be held on April 10th.

EAB Marshaling Yard - Adam indicated that the location of a marshaling yard has not been finalized. Possible locations include the lot near Agway and the old Grossman property. Shawn mentioned that the Grossman property is a contaminated site and that will certainly affect its possible acquisition.

EAB Public Communications - John S indicated planning for communications to the public is still in the works.

Statehouse Forest Management Plan - Jac indicated that Geoff has contacted State Forester Dave Wilcox. No additional information was available.

Updating Tree Board Ordinance - Sarah indicated that she and James had been working on an updated tree species listing for the Ordinance and James had obtained Tree Ordinance information from other cities including Ithaca, NY. Bill Fraser and Mike (Planning Department) will be consulted regarding the extent of changes to the Ordinance. Currently any reviews of planting plans associated with construction are informal. Adam is concerned about the aspects in the Tree Ordinance dealing with safety and hazard trees. He will meet with Geoff and Jac to discuss this aspect (private property vs R.O.W. tree hazards) and provide input to Sarah and James.

Parks and Trees Department Update - Adam mentioned that there was a pine down on Elm Street as well as a Norway maple down on Vine Street. There is also a hazard tree on Franklin (near Main).

New Business

North Branch Park River Planting - Jac reported that the Parks and Trees Dept received yet another grant for planting trees so they have ordered about 700 trees. These include some fruit trees to be planted along the bike path. 9-10 AmeriCorps folks will be available to plant some of the trees and Shawn indicated that some Friends volunteers might help plant some also. Tristan will ask fellow students at MHS if they wish to help plant trees.

Planting of Rivers and Streams Initiative - Shawn explained that the Friends are involved in planting trees on larger parcels such as the planting activity (Timber Frame) planned for the North Branch on April 24th involving a CCV class. However, Friends has also heard from folks on smaller streams who would also like to have trees planted on their parcels. Such plantings higher in watersheds would tend to better control stormwater runoff. Friends is not equipped to do these kinds of smaller lot plantings so Shawn would like to see if the Tree Board could fill this role. One early example is the Walker residence on Deerfield. John indicated that in addition to planting trees in the front of homes in the City the tree Board may branch out and start planting some in backyards.

The May Tree Board meeting coincides with Arbor Day Conference on May 2nd. All Tree Board members and volunteers are encouraged to attend the conference. The Tree Board may be able to cover some, if not all, of the conference registration fees. If necessary we could have a meeting the following week.

John S was invited to attend the initial meeting of the Barre City Tree Board. They are dealing with the aftermath of some poor plantings downtown that will need to be replaced in the next few years.

- Workdays: Spreading compost and gypsum downtown and removing wooden guards - possible workday the weekend of April 6-7 [Update: Scheduled for 4/7 at 1:00 p.m.]