

Montpelier Tree Board

Draft Minutes

June 6, 5:30-6:30 Memorial Room, City Hall

Attending: John S., Abby, Lynn, Sarah, Shawn, Jac, Meredith, Ken, John A

- Approval of Agenda - the Agenda was approved
- Approval of April minutes - The April Meeting Minutes were approved (there was no May meeting)
- Comments from the public

Meredith indicated that the Gingko on Stonecutters Way does not appear to be doing well. The catalpa there is looking good; the new elms at the Co-Op look good also. John S believes that the Gingko will be ok (had been relocated there previously and did not have a great root structure). Ken stated that the Rio Grande River is running full and Banff is a place not to be missed.

- Old Business:

Review of spring planting

Tree Board (John S) - John compared his vision of how the planting was to occur with what really happened. The Parks Department digging holes all over town did not come to pass. They did a great job digging holes in the nursery. John suggested that tree recipients be responsible for digging the holes and we will plant the trees (you dig 'em, we plant 'em).

Previous year plantings are looking good but Sarah noted that the maples are being eaten by deer. They need to be sprayed with some sort of deer repellent (pigs/cows blood works). Need to send out watering reminders to all recipients (e-mail list needed). Also, having soil amendments at planting time would be good. About 150 trees planted.

Parks & Trees (Jac) - Parks and Trees planted about 1000 trees and are done for the time being. They planted a bunch in the nursery and some are in pots. 15-20 chestnuts were planted in Hubbard Park. The North Branch Park and the bike path received many of the trees planted to shade out the knotweed. Insofar as the trees from the Intervale, James picked them up; they may be the ones in pots - these are trees John S ordered. National Life did send some volunteers. Jac will provide mulch for the trees planted throughout the city next week (obtained from stump dump).

Lynn inquired if that mulch has crazy worms; assessment was that it probably did not.

Shawn and the Friends of the Winooski planted about 2300 trees in the watershed of that river. Locations included E Montpelier, Bolton, Dog River area, Moscow rec field, Mill Brook (Jericho). Tree Board plantings along streams in Montpelier will need to be discussed.

John S gave Lynn and Meredith aluminum labels for the nursery trees, suggested using the common name and year planted.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) (John A)

John gave a run down of the EAB activities over the past month which included teaching a CCV class, John S and John A participated in a forum EAB discussion at the Arbor Day Conference, deploying green traps at nine locations throughout Montpelier, training numerous volunteers (in three sessions) to conduct re-survey of ash trees in the next two weeks (thanks to Lynn, Meredith, Sarah and Shawn for volunteering!), and working with Ginger Nickerson to deploy

two purple traps as part of a State/Federal monitoring effort. Meanwhile Adz of the Parks Dept. has been treating our downtown ash with Tree:Age (emamectin benzoate). EAB flight period expected to begin in mid-June.

TreeCity Montpelier Report (Lynn)

Three programs were held during the month of May: Healthy Soils, Taking Root, and Be Your Own Lorax. While no photo exhibits or posters were displayed due to just too much on the plate, TreeCity Montpelier was very successful because people came out to talk about environmental issue and what they can do to help. This leads to our responsibility to manage volunteers and keep them in our communications so they can participate in activities such as nursery workdays, other workdays, the parade, mulching trees, educational activities. Perhaps future board meetings can have a business portion followed by an educational portion which would expand our stewardship to more of the residents.

The idea of a new meeting format was thought to be a good one; perhaps doing an education portion every second month (Abby's comment).

Parks and Trees Department update (Geoff/Jac)

The NCCC group is working well (Shawn also worked with them). Parkapalooza will be a monthly event with one night of camping (June 15th for this month). The Parks folks are looking for skills teachers.

- New Business

Planting of three replacement trees downtown (John S)

James's company donated three freeman maples for planting in Montpelier. The tree at the Artisans Hand has died; perhaps it should be replaced by a hackberry? Other locations include the Toy Store, and at School Street and Main.

Mulching/tagging neighborhood trees (Jac). Mulching to occur next week.

New plantings at Hunger Mountain Coop (John S). As noted previously, the elms there look very good.

Grant from the Montpelier Community Foundation (John S)

We received a check for \$5000.00. Perhaps we can set up the nursery watering system now? Thanks to Jack Lindley for contributing the initial \$1000.00 to kick off the fundraiser for the Tree Board.

Participation in July 3rd parade The Tree Board will combine forces with Parks and Trees. The latter personnel may dress up as invasives species. We will look to see if we can get the EAB costume that Jac has 75% committed to wearing for the parade.

- Workdays: TBD

Abby not available July 2 - 11 so if the trees need watering we will need volunteers to do so.