

Tree Committee

Minutes from meeting on October 18th 2022

Jesse Bishop, Jane Chrichton, Esther Mechler, John Hodapp Jane Nichols-Ecker, Dennis Wilson, Town Arborist and Dan Ankeles, Town Council liaison.

Jesse Bishop, chair , opened the meeting with a request of members to consider who would chair the Tree Committee for the next year. Not having time for consideration, it was decided that Jesse should continue as acting chair, which he offered to do, until the next meeting of the Committee, at which time the members will vote on the chair position. In the meantime, members will consider taking on this position for one calendar year.

Old Business:

Charge of the Committee: there were no additions to the Charge, primarily new items were arranged either under "Mission of the Committee" or under the heading "Procedure". Majority voted to send the revised Charge to the Town Council for consideration and approval. I , abstained because I felt there needed to be more input by members in revising the Charge before sending it to the Council. However, further discussion would only further delay approval.

New Business:

Members discussed the recent Council meeting which took up the proposed design of the Downtown Sidewalk and Streetscape Plan. There will be a public hearing in November on the Plan, then a final vote will take place by the Council on December 5th. Councilor Dan Ankeles recommends that a letter be written by the Tree Committee and sent to the Council, with input from the members, on their recommendations regarding the Sidewalk and Streetscape Plan. Jesse Bishop has offered to compose such a letter, so everyone should submit their recommendations to him so the Council will have time to consider the recommendations before, or at the next Public Hearing. A final date for the public hearing will be published on the town website by November 3rd.

Topics discussed to be included in recommendations:

How will Older trees receive water and nutrients if there is an Asphalt Bridge? Are there alternatives to this design?

Recommend that since the new map that was on the wall of the Council Chambers includes the area between Station Ave. and Pleasant Street, the rehabilitation design should include new trees, in the area between Pleasant Street and Station Ave. In the small area between Noble Streets and Station Avenue, there are several trees between the sidewalk and the street, at least three. Traveling north toward Peasant Street from Station Ave., there is a barren appearance, where there are only three trees: one in front of NE Bank, Two red maples in front

of Key Bank, and 1 in front of Seven Eleven which is either dead or dying. This is one of the less attractive portions of downtown. The opposite side of Maine Street has many trees, along the mall. The planting of trees on the west side of Maine opposite the mall would greatly improve the appearance, be more inviting to pedestrians, as well as offer shade and cooling. A bench or two would be lovely. There are certainly trees that would not interfere with all the wires, and as on several other streets, the trees do get pruned around the wires. Magnolia (there are smaller varieties), crab, ginkgo. There might be several varieties that could fit into this landscape.

Does the Tree Committee support a brick, hybrid, or hybrid of the hybrid design?

There are likely many more recommendations that can be included in the letter to the Council.

Our next meeting will be on December 20th 2022. Jane Crichton has offered to keep the minutes of that meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Nichols-Ecker