

**TOWN OF ORONO
TREE BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023 AT 5:00PM**

**IN-PERSON
COUNCIL CHAMBER, MUNICIPAL BUILDING
59 MAIN STREET, ORONO, ME 04473**

MINUTES

1. Roll Call & Introductions

Present: Co-Chairs Dave Thompson and Tim White, Pat Thompson, Jennifer Dann, Jason Clarke, Kenny Fergusson, Terri Triandafillou, Associate members Cindy Blease and Jayme Titus, and Environmental Services Coordinator Megan Hess.

Absent: Public Works Director and Tree Warden Rob Yerxa.

2. Agenda Review - No additions or deletions.

3. Approval of Minutes of February 7, 2023 Board Meeting

Motion by Tim White and seconded by Jenn Dann to approve the minutes. All voted in favor of the minutes as noted, 8-0.

4. Grants Update

- **Invasive Plant Control Practice Plan (IPCPP) Report and Action Planning - Colburn Lot**

Megan Hess informed the Board that landowners with an approved IPCPP will be eligible to apply for treatment of invasive plants on their property with the cost of treatment potentially 100% covered. It would be a good educational and outreach project throughout the process.

Terri Triandafillou motioned and Jenn Dann seconded to go through with the grant proposal. The vote was in favor, 7-0-1 (with Kenny Fergusson abstaining due to a conflict of interest).

- **2023 Invasive Plant Control Practice & Project (IPCPP) Canopy Grant - Planting Grant**

IPCPP Grant: Megan Hess informed the Board that because you need to have an approved IPCPP to be eligible for funding, the Board should consider paying for one to be created for the High School Lot. The IPCPP would cost \$600 for the High School Lot but would be eligible for 50% reimbursement. Tim White expressed strong support for this project because this area is used a lot. Dave Thompson believes that there are less invasives there, but it would be a great place to get inventoried to help keep everything under control. He noted there is a patch of blow downs that may be susceptible to invasives. The Board should connect with Lynn White to get good input.

Tim White motioned to approve the IPCPP grant application for the high school lot and Terri Triandafillou seconded. The vote was in favor, 7-0-1 (with Kenny Fergusson abstaining due to a conflict of interest).

Project Canopy Grant: Megan Hess also asked the Board for recommendations on areas where they would like to plant trees this year. Two options she noted that would be good for the Board to consider would be: 1) To plant in areas where there are monocultures of Ash trees, and 2) To plant in areas where trees were recently removed. Dave Thompson noted that there are 15 northern white cedars at their house that need to be planted. They suggest planting ten trees total (5-6 foot northern red oak or sugar maples). Planting the northern cedars could be a match to the grant application. The Board will need to find a good location for them. Public Works would want to be there with a backhoe to dig the holes for planting the larger trees. Dave Thompson expressed the need to take time and figure out what the soil is like before planting expensive trees. He has a soil auger to take soil samples. The Board would want grant funds for soil, stakes, mulch, and trees.

Another location that Jenn Dann suggested would be planting by the pool, to replant where they will cut down the Norway Maples. This would be a great location for a cutting and planting educational event.

Dave Thompson stated he wants the Board to have a nursery at Public Works. This will be a topic looked into in the future.

5. Tree Warden Update & Tree Evaluations:

- **Tree Evaluations & Maintenance Update** - None. Remove the flagging on Forest Avenue and Essex Street. Question, have the trees been trimmed?
- **Online Map Viewer - Comments** - No comments
- **Management Plan Update - Review of 1st draft**

Megan Hess informed the Board that the first draft of the 2023 Urban Forest Management Plan has been completed and there are multiple areas where the Tree Board can provide input. Ms. Hess will share the draft with the Board (via google documents) for their review before the April meeting.

6. Monthly Tree Board Activity Update

- **Chairperson Update** - The 15 northern white cedar trees need a home.

7. Adjournment

- **Next Meeting Tuesday, April 4th at 5:00 pm**

Major topic for the next meeting will be discussion of the first draft of the management plan.

Tim White motioned to adjourn, and Jason Clarke seconded. The Board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Hess
Environmental Services Coordinator