

**TOWN OF ORONO
TREE BOARD VIRTUAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021 AT 5:00PM**

WATCH ONLINE AT
<https://zoom.us/j/91284658032>

For Dial in Only call 1-312-626-6799 Webinar ID: 912 8465 8032

(LINK AVAILABLE AT ORONO.ORG)

Comments can be submitted via email prior to the meeting start time at info@orono.org and during the meeting by using Zoom comment features.

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present: Cindy Blease (Co-Chair), Dave Thompson (Co-Chair), Pat Thompson, Jessica Leahy, Tim White, Matthew Ewing and Public Works Director/Tree Warden Rob Yerxa

2. Agenda Review -None

3. Approval of Minutes of January 13, 2021 & February 3, 2021 *(Video record time 01:40-3:40)*

Moved by Jessica Leahy and seconded by Tim White to approve the minutes. The vote was in favor, 5-0-1 (with Cindy Blease abstaining).

4. Tree evaluations:

- **No Pending Evaluations for the Board**
- **Tree Warden Update**

The Tree Warden's update was included in the next two items.

5. Review and Recommended Revisions of the Vegetation Ordinance *(Video record time 04:00-15:00)*

The Board reviewed the Vegetation Ordinance and suggested addressing tree pests and disease in a general way versus including specifics on certain diseases like the Dutch Elm Disease. Mr. Yerxa suggested moving specifics like the Dutch Elm Disease out of the Ordinance and into a policy statement. The Board agreed with the changes discussed and also restructuring the different sections of the Ordinance. Mr. Yerxa noted a few minor changes that were made.

The Board reviewed the legal requirements of not having three or more members gather to talk about Tree Board business outside of the meeting. They agreed that all Tree Board meetings should be transparent.

The Board recommended having three members have technical tree/natural resource backgrounds. The Board agreed to add language that they would elect the Chairperson each year.

The Board agreed to include language that allows the Tree Warden to act in consultation with the Tree Board Chair in an emergency situation. Mr. Yerxa agreed to revise the language based on the discussion.

6. Open Board Position - Review of Applications

Mr. Yerxa stated there are three applications to date. He noted that the ad ran in the recent Orono Observer and suggested waiting until next month to review the applications. Mr. Thompson suggested changing the ordinance to include associate members to the Tree Board.

7. Monthly Tree Board Activity Update

Mr. Thompson suggested having Ms. Blease contact Mr. Allen (the 5th grade teacher at Asa Adams) regarding Arbor Day in May.

Ms. Leahy provided an update on the two UMaine students that are working on the Emerald Ash Borer project. She noted there are efforts on campus to protect the Ash trees.

Ms. Blease spoke of a student doing graduate work with the Brown Tail Moth that could be involved with the Board.

The Board discussed the UMaine student presentations that will occur in May.

The Board's next meeting will be April 7, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Tim White and seconded by Jessica Leahy. All voted in favor, 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes are summary only. A video recording of the meeting is available on the Town's website at www.orono.org under Agendas and Minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward
Executive Assistant