

**TOWN OF ORONO
TREE BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 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, Associate members Cindy Blease and Jayme Titus, Environmental Services Coordinator Megan Hess, and Public Works Director and Tree Warden Rob Yerxa.

Absent: Terri Triandafillou

2. Agenda Review - No additions or deletions.

3. Approval of Minutes of March 7th, 2023 Board Meeting

Motion by Dave Thompson and seconded by Cindy Blease to approve the minutes. All voted in favor of the minutes as noted, 8-0.

4. Grants Update

- **Invasive Plant Control Practice Plans (IPCPP)**

Megan Hess informed the Board that the IPCPP grant application for the High School Lot was submitted. Ms. Hess is waiting for the IPCPP funding for treatment options to open up this month and she will apply for the treatment funding for the Colburn Lot when it does.

- **Project Canopy - Planting Grant**

The Tree Board applied for funding to purchase 6 sugar maples and 12 red maples (Armstrong variation) to plant in high density ash areas. The Town plans to dig the holes with an excavator and the Tree Board will request volunteers for planting during Maine's Arbor Week, May 19th from 3-5pm.

Dave Thompson would like to do more educational and outreach events with school children to have them learn about the importance of forests.

5. Tree Warden Update & Tree Evaluations:

- **Tree Evaluations & Maintenance Update**

123 Forest Ave: White Pine Tree - Rob Yerxa informed the Board that this tree was evaluated by the Town's tree consultant who found a significant amount of rot in the trunk using core samples.

Tim White made a motion to remove the tree and prune the surrounding trees, Jennifer Dann seconded the motion. All voted in favor, 8-0. Mr. Yerxa will make contact with the landowner. Mr. Thompson would like to plant a tree in its place.

169 Main St: Norway Maple (Woodpecker Damage) - Mr. Yerxa informed the Tree Board that there is a Norway Maple with significant woodpecker damage on Main Street.

Tim White made a motion to remove the tree and Jennifer Dann seconded the motion. All voted in favor, 8-0.

- **Management Plan Update - Review of 1st draft**

Megan Hess opened up the discussion for comments on the first draft of the management plan. Jennifer Dann mentioned that we should keep names and businesses out of the management plan. Tim White would like to expand the management plan to include not only street tree inventory data but other public spaces and larger lots that the Town manages. Rob Yerxa would like more explanation about what the urbanized area is and the scope of the plan. Mr. Yerxa stated that this will be a guiding document, so more explanation on how decisions are made will be important to add.

For example: “Tree warden brings trees to the Board to get expert advice and allows opportunity for public comment.” But you would not include the process of what the tree warden needs to do after that, that would be a standard operating procedure. The standard operating procedures would be linked to the calendar as supporting documents.

There was much discussion on how the Board should focus on the EAB preparedness plan this month since EAB is now in Newport and Corinna. The Board discussed adding this as an educational and outreach opportunity to the street and stream clean up. Mr. Yerxa will ask Josh at UMaine to see if they are going to treat the ash trees on campus. Megan Hess will work with the Board to shape up the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan so the Board can discuss it at the May meeting.

6. Monthly Tree Board Activity Update

- **Chairperson Updates**

Gabriel Frey met with Dave Thompson, Rob Yerxa, and Megan Hess at the Public Works building last week to discuss monitoring the small Brown Ash stand in the Jeremiah Colburn Natural Area. Mr. Frey wants to monitor for signs of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), teach Wabanaki youth on cultural basket making and caring for Brown Ash stands, and be able to harvest the ash in that stand for basket making. The Tree Board was very supportive of this effort. Ms. Hess will draft a letter of support for the Tree Board that will go to Council. This will coincide with the Arbor Day Proclamation in May.

7. Adjournment

- Next Meeting Tuesday, May 2nd at 5:00 pm

Major topic for the next meeting will be discussion of the EAB plan and locations for tree planting.

Jennifer Dann motioned to adjourn, and Jason Clarke seconded. The Board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Hess
Environmental Services Coordinator