

**TOWN OF ORONO
TREE BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022 AT 5:00PM**

WATCH ONLINE AT
<https://zoom.us/j/96207635544>

FOR DIAL IN TO ZOOM WEBINAR
Call 1 (312) 626-6799 Webinar ID: 962 0763 5544

MINUTES

1. Roll Call & Introductions

Present: Dave Thompson (Co-Chair), Cindy Blease (Co-Chair), Pat Thompson, Tim White, Jennifer Dann, Jessica Leahy, Public Works Director/Tree Warden Rob Yerxa, Environmental Services Coordinator Megan Hess, UMaine Master of Forestry Student David Ludwig, and UMaine Instructor of Community Forestry & Arboriculture Tish Carr.

Absent: Terri Triandafillou, Associate members Jason Clarke, and Kenny Fergusson.

2. Agenda Review - None

3. Approval of Minutes of March 1, 2022 Tree Board Meeting

Motion by Pat Thompson and seconded by Cindy Blease. The vote was in favor 4-0-2 (with Jessica Leahy and Jennifer Dann abstain due to not being present.). Megan Hess' last name was corrected.

4. Tree Warden Update & Tree Evaluations:

● **Tree Inventory Data Collection - Introductions & iTree data**

Megan Hess introduced David Ludwig who is a Masters of Forestry Student at the University of Maine who will be completing the Urban Tree Inventory this year and Tish Carr who will be his advisor on the project. Mr. Ludwig gave a brief Powerpoint presentation about the project, the deliverables, and provided time for questions. Tim White asked if the maintenance data will include obstructions to powerlines or hazards, and David confirmed that it would. Jessica Leahy would like to see more detail about what health parameters will be collected. Jenn Dann wondered how easy it was to upload the GPS data to ArcGIS, Tish confirmed this was easy to do. David Ludwig is going to review the accuracy of the georeferenced data if used on an iPhone, we may have to use a GPS instead for better accuracy. David Ludwig, Rob Yerxa, and Megan Hess have a meeting next week to answer some of these questions.

● **Bennoch Road Clearing Project Update**

Rob Yerxa gave an update that Zuhlke Tree Services completed the clearing project on 3/18. They left a few trees for habitat trees. Everything went well.

● **MFS Invasive Plant Program Grant Application**

April 5, 2022 - Tree Board Meeting

At 6:10pm, David Thompson motioned and Pat

Thompson seconded to adjourn. All voted in favor, 6-0.

Recording was made.

Megan Hess gave an update that the Town has submitted an application for the MFS Invasive Plant Program Grant to create an Invasive Plant Control Practice Plan for the Colburn Lot in hopes of addressing the buckthorn issue and they are waiting to hear back.

- **Tree Evaluation List**

A list was provided to the Tree Board members of 12 trees that need to be evaluated (see attached). Rob Yerxa explained a little about each tree that needs to be evaluated. Jennifer Dann wanted to rework the evaluation sheet and have it match with the Tree Inventory data that will be collected this year. Ms. Dann also wanted to add the Pat's Park tree to the evaluation list on the corner of Mill Street and Main Street. Ms. Leahy said they have monitored this tree in the past, so it would be good to check back in with it.

5. Maine Arbor Week Planning - 5/16 - 5/21

- **Arbor Day Celebration at Asa Adams School**

Cindy Blease said the Arbor Day Celebration is usually held on the Thursday of Arbor Week, which will be May 19th. Ms. Blease will get in touch with Mr. Allen to see if that day works for his class. Jessica, Jennifer, and Tim are available for this event. Ms. Blease said she would check to see if they are getting saplings for the kids.

- **Godfrey Drive Planting Event 5/20, 3:00 - 5:00 pm** - Still in motion to do so.

- **Education and Outreach**

Mr. Yerxa would like a press release created to let people know about the history of the Orono Tree Board, the 26th year of being a Tree City USA, and about the Arbor Day events that are planned. Megan Hess will create the first draft and will email it out to everyone as a Google document for everyone to review. Cindy Blease asked about having a 25th celebration. Mr. Yerxa suggested having a celebration in July or August.

6. Monthly Tree Board Activity Update

- **Chairperson Update** - None

- **Election of Officers in May**

In May, we elect the officers for the Board. The Tree Board will decide the positions of the Tree Board. Cindy Blease would be fine to step down from the Co-Chair position, but very much enjoys being on the Tree Board and helping with everything. David Thompson is willing to stay as Co-Chair. The Board may be looking for a member to step up as a Co-chair. Tree Board members should let Rob Yerxa know if they would like to renew their terms. Tim White would like to renew for 3 more years. Jessica Leahy is still deciding if she would like to renew. Tim White will orchestrate the arrangements.

7. Next Meeting Tuesday, May 3rd - Zoom or In-person?

Mr. Thompson suggested waiting to see how the Covid situation is, but he would like to be in person. Masking would be up to the individual. Jenn Dann suggested meeting outside. Mr. Yerxa said he would set up chairs and the Board could plan to meet at the wildlife garden, and if the weather is poor then they would meet at the Town Hall.

April 5, 2022 - Tree Board Meeting

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Thompson seconded to adjourn. All voted in favor, 6-0.

Recording was made.

8. Adjournment

April 5, 2022 - Tree Board Meeting

At 6:10pm, David Thompson motioned and Pat

Thompson seconded to adjourn. All voted in favor, 6-0.

Recording was made.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Ward, Executive Assistant

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Tree Evaluation List
4/1/202

- 2514 Essex St** - Large Oak showing some signs of degradation. However, overall it appears to be healthy. Will need to observe after leaf-out to identify failing limbs. Could be a good candidate for pruning work.

- Penobscot St Locust Trees** -
 - OVWD driveway at 47 Penobscot St - Large locust tree with some significant rot at the base. Tree leans toward the road and utility lines Tree Board Review

 - Group of approximately 10 locust trees located on a parcel of land owned by OLT just past 72 Penobscot St. The area is marked with orange flags. Some of the large trees have significant issues, including one that was struck by lightning. The trees are very close to the road and drainage ditch, have significant lean, and do not appear to be healthy, Tree Board review

- 170 Bennoch Rd** - Dead pine tree located at the extreme northwestern corner of the Riverside Cemetery lot. The Town owns the east side of Bennoch road all the way to the Orono/Old Town townline. The large tree is located on the steep slope of the drainage area. The tree is dead, but if it falls it is likely to go into a ditch, low risk to cause damage. It should be addressed, but is not a significant hazard and therefore a low priority removal

- Park St Pines at Boulder Drive (Old Town End)** - Twin pines located in the area of 157 Park St. One leader is completely dead, both should be removed Tree Board Review

- Park St Pines** - Series of pine located at the edge of the roadway in the area of 142 & 144 Park St. Seemingly healthy, but showing signs of degradation. Some have some significant rot at the base. Tree Board evaluation needed, continue to monitor.

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- Westwood Drive** - Dead pine at the end of the street. Will likely deal with that as part of the paving or clearing project
- Westwood Drive**- Roadside clearing project from the back entrance to the high school to the dead end seems necessary. Several large hardwoods (primarily maple & oak) are leaning out into the road. Need the Tree Board to evaluate this area and make a project recommendation
- Corner of Spencer St & Main** - Three dead softwoods marked for removal
- 38 Pierce St** - Large maple growing very close to the wires on the street and the house. Several dead limbs, owner would prefer pruning, however this may not be an option due to the condition of the tree. Tree Board review
- End of Gilbert St** - Large poplar with a significant scar at the base. Buds indicate that the tree may be ok, needs a second look in the spring after leaf out
- 35 Broadway** - Large hardwood leaning over the road and 31 Broadway. Trunks and crown are leaning. Shows some signs of stress due to the angle of growth, but otherwise seems healthy. It is a split growth tree so there is a split between the two main leaders that looks hazardous. Needs Tree Board Evaluation
Need to verify ROW location here, not sure if this is a Town tree.
- Pat's Park Tree**

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