

**TOWN OF ORONO
TREE BOARD VIRTUAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021 AT 5:00PM**

WATCH ONLINE AT

<https://zoom.us/j/96566911175>

For Dial in Only call 1-312-626-6799 Webinar ID: 965 6691 1175

(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, and Public Works Director/Tree Warden Rob Yerxa

2. Agenda Review - None

3. Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2021 *(Video record time 02:30-3:00)*

Moved by Tim White and seconded by Jessica Leahy to approve the minutes. All voted in favor, 5-0.

4. Tree evaluations:

- **No Pending Evaluations for the Board**
- **Tree Warden Update** *(Video record time 03:01-4:55)*

Jessica Leahy asked about the tree evaluation cycle. Mr. Yerxa noted there are less evaluations that occur during the winter months and more evaluations in May, June, July, October and November.

5. Review of the final draft of the Vegetation Ordinance *(Video record time 05:00-20:11)*

Tim White suggested capitalizing all the words in a definition (i.e. Drift Line and Tree Warden). Mr. Yerxa noted that Ms. Ward will make the corrections and fix the numbering sequences before the ordinance is reviewed by the Council Committee.

Mr. White asked whether the reference was intended for the Public Health Officer or the Tree Warden. Mr. Yerxa explained the authority of the Public Health Officer. Ms. Wilson stated the Public Health Officer is heavily defined in the State Statutes.

Ms. Leahy suggested the language should state that the Tree Warden shall enter onto private property with permission or notice. Ms. Wilson noted the Tree Warden would seek permission prior to entering private land with notice or permission.

The Board discussed having language that would allow cutting down invasive species on public lands. Mr. Yerxa noted the Tree Board already has that authority. Mr. Yerxa suggested addressing the strategies and plans for managing invasive species in the Urban Forest Management Plan.

Ms. Leahy suggested adding "... and invasive plant species" to Section 38-61, Statement of policy.

The Tree Board agreed with the changes and to send the Vegetation Ordinance to the Town Council for their review and public hearing.

6. Open Board Position - Review of Applications & Recommendations for Town Council Appointments *(Video record time 20:17-29:00)*

The Board noted that all four candidates were excellent. Ms. Blease thanked Matthew Ewing for his years of service on the Tree Board.

Ms. Leahy nominated Jennifer Dann for appointment to the Tree Board. She noted that Ms. Dann is an ISA Certified Arborist. Mr. White seconded the nomination. All voted in favor, 5-0.

Mr. White nominated Terri Triandafillou for appointment to the Tree Board. He noted her forestry experience. Ms. Leahy seconded the nomination. All voted in favor, 5-0.

Mr. White nominated Kenneth Fergusson and Jason Clarke as Associate Members to the Tree Board and Ms. Leahy seconded the nomination. All voted in favor, 5-0.

Mr. Yerxa stated the recommendations will be taken to the April 12th Council Meeting for consideration of appointment.

7. Monthly Tree Board Activity Update *(Video record time 29:01-38:30)*

Ms. Blease stated she sent a message to Patrick Allen (the 5th grade teacher at Asa Adams School) regarding the Arbor Day celebration in May (the week of May 16-22nd). She noted the student celebration is tentatively set for Thursday, May 20th at 2pm (if allowed) and she described the details. Other Board members noted that Friday, May 21st would work better with their schedules. Ms. Blease will check with Mr. Allen.

Ms. Leahy stated the two UMaine students will be giving their presentations at the May 5th meeting. The two presentations will be approximately 45 minutes. Mr. Yerxa noted he will have two tree evaluations on the May agenda, along with the appointment of officers and a discussion of the Arbor Day plans. He noted the Tree Management Plan will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

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

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Cindy Blease and seconded by Jessica Leahy. All voted in favor, 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:39 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