

**TOWN OF ORONO  
TREE BOARD VIRTUAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 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](mailto:info@orono.org) and during the meeting by using Zoom comment features.*

**MINUTES**

**1. Roll Call & Introductions** *(Video record time (Video record time 08:10-10:55))*

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

The following new Tree Board members were also present: Regular members Jennifer Dann and Terri Triandafillou and Associate Member Jason Clarke.

**2. Emerald Ash Borer Project Presentations** *(Video record time 11:00-51:55)*

**"Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan and Mapping" - A joint presentation by University of Maine Students Sydney Young and Ashley Martone**

Jessica Leahy introduced University of Maine, Master Forestry Student Sydney Young and Senior Forestry Student Ashley Martone. Ms. Young and Ms. Martone gave a PowerPoint presentation on Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan and Mapping (on public land).

Ms. Young's management recommendations were: To save money now, update the tree survey (utilize UMaine students), rate the trees 1-5, document reconditions with pictures, solidify specimen tree choices, apply for grants, treat as many trees as possible and educate the public.

Ms. Martone provided an overview of the Orono Ash Tree Map Web Application. She also spoke of monitoring for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Penobscot County. Ms. Martone's recommendations were: To set traps for EAB and monitor regularly, establish a wasp watcher program, and prioritize hazard trees for removal or treatment with pesticides.

**3. Agenda Review - None**

**4. Approval of Minutes of April 7, 2021** *(Video record time 52:10-55:40)*

Moved by Tim White and seconded by Jessica Leahy to approve the minutes. All voted in favor, 5-0-2 (Cindy Blease and Triandafillou abstained).

Ms. Blease noted she was unable to read the minutes and Ms. Triandafillou noted she was not present for the meeting. Both abstained from the vote.

**5. Election of Board Officers** *(Video record time 55:40-56:44)*

Mr. Yerxa stated the Town Council will hold a public hearing on the new Chapter 38 Vegetation Ordinance at the May 10th Council Meeting. He noted the language includes the new structure for the Tree Board Associate members and election of a Chairperson. **The Tree Board agreed to table the election of the Tree Board Officer to their next meeting.**

**6. Tree evaluations:** *(Video record time 56:45-1:16;14)*

- **Godfrey Drive Buffer Strip**

The Board discussed the Godfrey Drive 50-foot buffer strip (near Dysart's). Mr. Thompson noted that the original trees were planted about 40 years ago and have grown up. He suggested having the Board members view the site for future comments.

Mr. White noted Dysart's is looking to expand their business and the buffer will be expected to do more. He noted making improvements to the buffer would be necessary.

**The Board agreed to conduct a field trip of the buffer area on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 5pm and to meet in the Nexxlink parking lot.**

- **Dysart's Redevelopment Plantings Plan Review**

Mr. Yerxa noted Dysart's redevelopment plan was approved at the recent Planning Board Meeting, conditioned upon working with the Tree Board on appropriate plantings on the northeast side, as a buffer/screen from activity at the site.

**The Board agreed to visit the site on Wednesday, May 26th (instead of holding a June 2nd meeting) to review Dysart's plans for plantings and make recommendations.**

**7. Monthly Tree Board Activity Update** *(Video record time 1:16;17-1:31:33)*

- **Plans for Arbor Week**

The Board discussed plans for the Arbor Day celebration. Cindy Blease stated the Asa Adams 5th grade class is available to meet with the Tree Board on Friday, May 21st via Zoom at 1:30 p.m. The Tree Board will read the Arbor Day Proclamation and give an educational presentation to the students. New Associate Tree Board Member Kenny Ferguson joined the meeting and noted he would provide information from the Maine Forest Service to the students.

- **2020 Tree City USA**

Mr. Yerxa stated the Town of Orono has once again achieved the 2020 Tree City USA status. He thanked everyone for working on the application. Ms. Blease noted this is the 25th year that Orono has achieved the Tree City USA status.

Tim White and Jennifer Dann volunteered to work on the draft Tree Management Plan.

**8. Next Meetings** - The June meeting will be held on May 26, 2021 (Field Trip) and the July meeting will be held on June 30, 2021 (via Zoom) due to the holiday.

**9. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Tim White and seconded by Cindy Blease. All unanimously agreed. The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Minutes are summary only. A video recording of the meeting is available on the Town's website at [www.orono.org](http://www.orono.org) under Agendas and Minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward  
Executive Assistant