

**TOWN OF ORONO  
TREE BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 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, Jennifer Dann, Terri Triandafillou, Jayme Titus, Jason Clarke, Associate member Cindy Blease, and Environmental Services Coordinator Megan Hess and Public Works Director and Tree Warden Rob Yerxa. James Stewart from the public.

**Absent:** Kenny Fergusson

**2. Agenda Review** - No additions or deletions.

**3. Approval of Minutes of May 2, 2023 Board Meeting**

Motion by Terri Triandafillou and seconded by Jayme Titus to approve the minutes. All voted in favor of the minutes as noted, 7-0.

**4. Open Board Position** - Rob Yerxa informed the Board that the Town Council formally appointed Jayme Titus as a regular member to the Tree Board at their May 8, 2023 meeting. The Board will review applications for the open associate position this month. James Stewart attended the meeting to learn more about this open position.

**5. Grants Update**

- **Invasive Plant Control Practice Plans (IPCPP)** - Megan Hess informed the Board that the IPCPP for the High School Lot was approved and Hunter Manley will be completing the plan before the end of this year. The Board is still waiting to hear if the Maine Forest Service will offer funding to implement the IPCPP plan for the Colburn Lot this year.
- **Project Canopy - Planting Grant** - Megan Hess informed the Board that all 18 trees have been planted. Jennifer Dann taught the Public Works employees how to root prune older trees in large pots and plant them. There were 6 sugar maples planted at Webster Park on May 25 for a public outreach and educational event. The Public Works crew planted the 12 Red Maples on June 6th by the pool and the ballfield.
- **Browntail Moth Mitigation Fund** - The Town has applied to the Browntail Moth Mitigation Fund to inject 27 large 'non-flowering' (i.e. Oaks) public trees within public spaces that cannot be trimmed via pole pruner and have shown significant evidence of BTM infestation. This treatment will last 2 years and these spaces include Webster Park, RSU 26 campus, and Downtown Orono. This application was able to be completed in a timely manner because of the tree inventory data supplying the diameter at breast height data and the previously collected citizen scientist data that identified areas of high BTM density.

## 6. Tree Warden Update & Tree Evaluations:

### • Tree Evaluations & Maintenance Update

- i. *Two Silver Maples - 23 Park Street* - Dave Thompson informed the Board that the trees could be a hazard because they are on the wires and have dead branches. Jennifer Dann is worried that the canopy is browning but did not feel that it was an urgent issue. The Board would like to have more time to assess the trees.
  - ii. *Norway Maple - 32 College Ave* - The Board would like a little more time to assess the trees and will email an opinion to Megan Hess before July 1st.
- **EAB Management Plan** - The Board agreed the EAB plan is in good shape and they will move forward working on the Urban Forest Management Plan next.
  - The Board revisited the idea of needing to move the public wood chip pile on the end of the Taylor Road for fear that this location may cause infestation and/or spread of EAB because it is unregulated. Rob Yerxa informed the Board that logistically the only location where the Town can regulate the wood chip pile would be to put it inside the landfill. Jennifer Dann followed up with Kenny Fergusson to ask if there was a regional coordination between contractors and arborists to see if there was a group that was using this location, but there was none. Moving the wood pile into the landfill would allow it to be regulated by the Town, but that movement would need to go to the Town Council. Terri Triandafillou made the point that local people are the most likely to use the pile and it would not be transported far. The Board would like to focus on education and outreach, including putting up a sign at the wood chip pile, handing out flyers at wood chip rental places, instead of moving the pile at this time. This will be revisited while working through the Urban Forest Management Plan.

## 7. Monthly Tree Board Activity Update

- **Chairperson Update** - May was a busy month! Tim White recapped all of the events that the Tree Board was involved in this month. The Board participated in the Arbor Week Celebration in Augusta, visited with 19 5th graders at the learning garden during Arbor Day, held a public tree planting event, and planted 18 six-foot trees this month.
- James Stewart asked the Board if they are familiar with Beech Leaf Disease. He noted that he saw beech leaf disease in a Tree behind the High School lot and off the bike path in the University Forest. The Board will be looking to address BFD in the Urban Forest Management Plan.

## 8. Adjournment

**- Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**

Terri Triandafillou motioned to cancel the July meeting, and Cindy Blease seconded. The Board voted all in favor, 7-0.

Terri Triandafillou motioned to adjourn, and David Thompson seconded. The Board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 5:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Hess  
Environmental Services Coordinator