

**TOWN OF ORONO
TREE BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 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, Kenny Fergusson, Associate member Cindy Blease, and Environmental Services Coordinator Megan Hess and Public Works Director and Tree Warden Rob Yerxa.

Absent: Jayme Titus, Jason Clarke

Agenda Review - Add review of the Tree Board Calendar as a standing item and add Project Canopy Trees.

2. Approval of Minutes of June 6, 2023 Board Meeting

Motion by Terri Trianafillou and seconded by David Thompson to approve the minutes. All voted in favor of the minutes as noted, 5-0.

3. Open Board Position - Motion by Jennifer Dann and second by Dave Thompson to recommend James Stewart to the Town Council for an Associate Member on the Tree Board. All voted in favor of 5-0. This recommendation will be considered at the September Town Council meeting.

4. Grants Update:

- **Project Canopy Trees:** Kenny Fergusson informed the Tree Board that one sugar maple in Webster Park is dead. He met with Aaron Bergdahl, a Maine Forest Service Forest Pathologist, because the tree looked diseased. Mr. Bergdahl recommended that the tree be removed and checked for Phytophthora (look for red) in the bark and cambium at the root collar. He also mentioned that the other sugar maples in Webster Park seem to have some Japanese Beetle damage that may have been secondarily infected via anthracnose but will likely be okay. The Board recommended checking with Spragues on the warranty to get a replacement tree and also to inform them of what had happened.
- **Invasive Plant Control Practice Plans (IPCPP)**
 - i. *High School Lot: IPCPP Creation (In Progress)*
 - ii. *Colburn Lot: Treatment Grant Application Deadline August 14, 2023:* Megan Hess informed the Tree Board that the funding opportunity just became available for treatment of IPCPPs. Because of a later funding opportunity than is typical in the year, the project scope will be nearly cut in half and will focus on the high density buckthorn area in the middle of the property to prevent spread to the western uninfested side. If funded, this project will start in September and will be completed by October 23, 2023.

- **Browntail Moth (BTM) 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 including areas in Webster Park, RSU 26 campus, and Downtown Orono. This project will start next spring after surveying for winter webs in the winter. Tim White suggested that we add this event to the Tree Board calendar.

5. Tree Warden Update & Tree Evaluations:

- **Tree Evaluations & Maintenance Update**
 - i. *32 College* - Norway Maple & Two Silvers down the road have been removed.
 - ii. *Dead Pine - Edgewood Dr*: Jennifer Dann recommends that the dead pines be removed. Dave Thompson recommends that everything be cut down, filled in, and grass be grown. Rob Yerxa informed the Board that it is the Town’s responsibility to make the area safe. Mr. Yerxa would like to engage the neighbors in that area for their recommendation and support of what they would like done. It was noted that there are thick invasive species in the understory. The Tree Board recommends that the first priority would be to cut down the dead trees and then engage the neighbors in the management plan.
- **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan** - Megan Hess would like some direction on wood chip sign language. The intended message is to “keep these chips local”. The idea would be to create a sign that will foster thinking about invasive species and limiting the spread. Megan Hess will share a google doc with the Tree Board of some verbiage to get the sign started.

6. Monthly Tree Board Activity Update:

- **Chairperson Update:** Tim White would like to add a monthly review of the Tree Board Calendar to meetings. Mr. White asked for recommendations for Orono Observer articles. Some suggestions were EAB transfer of wood chips, about the Board’s new transplants at Webster Park, and invasive species identification. Mr. White would like a tab created on the calendar for ideas for the Orono Observer.
- Kenny Fergusson informed the Board that the soccer team is asking if the Town can look at the invasives next to the ice hockey rink and pump track. Mr Yerxa will go look at the area.

7. Adjournment

- Next Meeting would normally be Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 5:00 pm but the Board opted to change the meeting to Tuesday, September 12th to accommodate staff’s schedule.

Jennifer Dann motioned to adjourn and Terri Triandafillou seconded. The Board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Hess
Environmental Services Coordinator