

**TOWN OF ORONO  
TREE BOARD IN-PERSON MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 AT 5:00PM**

**IN-PERSON  
COUNCIL CHAMBER – MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
59 MAIN STREET, ORONO, ME 04473**

**MINUTES**

**1. Roll Call**

Present: Cindy Blease (Co-Chair), Dave Thompson (Co-Chair), Pat Thompson, Tim White, Jessica Leahy, Jennifer Dann, Terri Triandafillou, Associate members Jason Clarke and Kenny Fergusson, and Public Works Director/Tree Warden Rob Yerxa.

**2. Agenda Review**

Mr. Yerxa asked to add a discussion about two oak trees in conflict with a power line on Westwood Drive. The Board agreed to add the item to the agenda during Tree Evaluations.

Mr. White asked to add a discussion for planning for a future agenda item. The Board agreed to add the item under the Monthly Tree Board Activity Update.

**3. Approval of Minutes of August 4, 2021**

Moved by Jessica Leahy and seconded by Tim White to approve the minutes. All voted in favor, 7-0.

**4. Tree Evaluations**

**Update - 82 Main Street Norway Maple was removed on August 25th** - Mr. Yerxa noted that the norway maple at 82 Main Street that was discussed at the August Tree Board meeting was removed by Zuhlke Tree Service on August 25th without incident. Public Works will be making arrangements to remove the stump, and the Tree Board will provide assistance and make recommendations for replanting in the spring of 2022.

**Westwood Oaks** (added to the agenda by the Board) - Mr. Yerxa informed the Board that he had been contacted by the contractor working for RSU#26 to clear the area under a power line that was due to be replaced by Versant Power as part of the RSU#26 renovation project. They were replacing an existing power line that was in conflict with two oak trees located in the Town right of way on the school side of Westwood Drive. Versant had informed the school that the line could not be installed without removing the two oaks. **The Tree Board unanimously agreed to permit the removal.** Mr. Yerxa will inform the school of the decision on September 8, 2021.

## **5. Possible Locations for a Tree Nursery**

The Board suggested that the best location for the new tree nursery might be an area adjacent to the Learning Garden on the hill between Asa Adams School and the Orono High School. Ms. Thompson pointed out that they would need about a 30'x30' area that would fit next to the raised beds placed in that area by the school. The proximity to a water source also made this a good choice. Ms. Triandafillou asked if they would need to fence it in to keep wildlife life (deer) from damaging the saplings. Ms. Thompson agreed and suggested the Board could install a fence or ask to add to the existing fence surrounding the raised beds. Mr. Yerxa agreed to discuss this with representatives from the school and report back in October.

## **6. Monthly Tree Board Activity Update**

### **Chairperson Update**

Ms. Blease thanked everyone that participated in the work day at 3:30pm. She noted the team was able to make quite a bit of progress, but there is more to be done. The focus of the work was on cutting back invasives and weeds growing in the garden. Piles were made of the debris to be picked up by Public Works.

Ms. Blease asked about a sign for the garden. Ms. Leahy suggested a sign to give people information about the Tree Board, the Learning Garden, and some of the other work the Tree Board does. Mr. Yerxa asked if the intent was to make this an information kiosk, or a simple sign. It was agreed that a small information display kiosk might be best. Mr. Yerxa agreed to price this out and get back to the Board at a subsequent meeting. Ms. Triandafillou and Ms. Blease mentioned there had been ornamental lights strung in one of the spruce trees in the garden. They attempted to remove them, but could not reach some of them. Mr. Yerxa agreed to check it out and attempt to remove them.

### **Planning for Learning Garden**

The Group decided to schedule a follow-up work day on September 14th at 5:00pm to finish some of the work started by the group on September 7th.

Mr. Thompson mentioned that some of the leaves and debris should remain in the garden area to simulate actual forest conditions and to encourage wildlife to establish habitat in the Learning Garden area.

### **Management Plan Revision**

Mr. White pointed out that we should begin planning for the Management Plan revisions. He suggested members review the existing plan and planning for the revision should be a topic of discussion at the next meeting. He noted that much of the plan had been based on the 2004 Inventory, and that an inventory may need to precede revisions to the Management plan.

The Board discussed ways to update the inventory, including the use of the Town's ArchGIS platform with a collector app to accomplish this and collect the data.

Mr. Thompson pointed out that the original inventory was completed by a UMaine graduate student named Mike Sanders, and that he had done an excellent job. Ms. Leahy said there may be an opportunity to hire Forestry students again.

The Board agreed that this would be a good discussion item for the next meeting and everyone agreed to review the original plan shared in the Google Drive before the next meeting.

## **7. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Tim White and seconded by Dave Thompson. All unanimously agreed. The meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

Minutes are summary only. No recording was made.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward  
Executive Assistant