

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

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

MINUTES

1. Roll Call & Introductions

Present: Cindy Blease (Co-Chair), Dave Thompson (Co-Chair), Pat Thompson, Jennifer Dann, Terri Triandafillou, Associate members Jason Clarke and Kenny Fergusson.

Absent: Tim White, Jessica Leahy and Public Works Director/Tree Warden Rob Yerxa.

2. Agenda Review

Co-Chair Dave Thompson led the meeting in Rob Yerxa's absence.

3. Approval of Minutes of September 7th Board Meeting

The Committee unanimously approved the September 7, 2021 Tree Board minutes.

4. Tree Evaluations:

12 Park St - Three norway maples - It was mentioned that the trees are in poor condition, the owner would like them removed, and they are an invasive species. **The Tree Board recommended that the trees be cut down.**

5. Planning for the Management Plan & Inventory Update

Mr. Fergusson brought up Project Canopy and a possible grant for the Management Plan. Jennifer Dann commented that the Town's plan inventory is impressive and that it includes trees on all the roads. She noted it does not include the trees in the parks and at the library. She asked if the Board should be trying to manage trees in areas where we encourage the public to be. It was noted that the management plan excludes trees in Sklar Park, the Coburn area and on the river trails.

Mr. Thompson stated that beavers girdled trees in Webster Park and some of the trees were removed. He noted that Brownies Park's trees should also be included in the discussion. It was mentioned that even if Mr. Yerxa doesn't feel that we need to inventory trees in the parks, the Board should focus on all street trees as in the previous inventory.

Mr. Thompson mentioned that the Board has stopped planting large growth trees in the right of ways under power lines. The Board recognized that they have had a problem in the past with people cutting very small trees (plantings) off with their mower or weed wacker even when there

have been stakes around them. The Board agreed to talk with Mr. Yerxa about the tree planting program.

Ms. Dann asked about pruning the dead branches off the tree in Pat's Park. She stated she would talk with Mr. Yerxa about the tree.

6. Monthly Tree Board Activity Update

Chairperson Update and Planning for Nature Garden & Nursery

The Board thanked everyone who worked at the Nature Garden this summer and fall! They also thanked the Public Works crew who picked up the piles of branches. They noted progress has been made by cutting off and pulling invasive vines off from trees and bushes. Mr. Fergusson mentioned using care to avoid breaking the trees' branches. He noted that both of the dead trees have been cut down and removed from the area. With the clean up, the garden has been opened up to see individual bushes and trees. The Board cut down the two dead trees and cut a lot of the invasive vines from the large tree in the garden. With everyone's efforts, many branches have been cut off the overgrown trees on the hillside and in the actual garden, which they noted will help open up the area to the smaller trees and bushes to more sunlight. The Board noted there are a few more piles of brush to dispose of on top of the hillside. Mr. Fergusson noted that Mrs. Oldenburgh and her Asa Adams class often walk by the garden at recess. She commented on how nice the area is looking. It was stated that it is great to see people enjoying the garden. With early sundown and colder weather, the Board will be looking toward next spring to continue the project.

The Board discussed the idea of placing the tree nursery in the area around the pole where the huge amount of invasives had taken over on the hillside. Pat had the idea of covering the area with plastic to kill the invasives. The Board agreed to discuss this further with the entire Board. Mr. Thompson didn't think that would be the best place for the tree nursery.

The Board agreed to work at the Nature Garden on Monday, October 11 at 4:30pm, to clear out more brush and dead branches.

7. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 2 at 5pm in the Keith Anderson Community House meeting room.

Minutes are summary. No recording was made.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Ward, Executive Assistant

With assistance from Cindy Blease, Tree Board Co-Chair