

**TOWN OF ORONO
TREE BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022 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, Pat Thompson, Terri Triandafillou, Jason Clarke, Kenny Fergusson, Jennifer Dann, Associate members Cindy Blease and Jayme Titus, Environmental Services Coordinator Megan Hess and Public Works Director and Tree Warden Rob Yerxa. Other guests: Tish Carr, David Ludwig, and Carly Fredericks.

2. Agenda Review - None

3. Approval of Minutes of October 4, 2022 Board Meeting

Motion by Pat Thompson and seconded by Terri Triandafillou to accept the minutes. All voted in favor, 7-0.

4. Grants Update - Urban Tree Inventory

- David Ludwig presented to the Tree Board on the final data of the updated tree inventory. Norway Maple and Eastern White Pine were the most prevalent tree species which was consistent with the 2002 inventory. The Town has a declining population of small diameter trees, and the canopy is starting to age and move into the larger size classes. The street trees provide carbon sequestration, stormwater runoff control, and provide other similar benefits.
- New trees need to be planted at a sufficient rate to replace the trees coming down.
- Sugar Maple and Red Maple may be good alternatives to Norway Maple. Consider climate-ready species and avoid species with known pest/disease issues and avoid monocultures.
- No Emerald Ash Borer were found, but the Ash trees are not evenly distributed throughout the Town, so if the EAB did come, we would want to protect the Ash heavy locations (Goodridge Dr., Winterhaven Dr., Godfrey Drive, Webster Park, River Trail).
- Recommendation was made to scale up tree planting opportunities to change the mindset that the Town only takes down trees.
- Recommend planting trees on Main Street and Park Street, planting a tree after one is cut down, and avoiding planting under power lines, (examples; Winterhaven, Cromwell).
- Recommends ordering trees from Spragues (ask Jan from Maine Forest Service),

The Board would like to continue sampling the trees in public spaces like Webster Park and the River Trail.

5. Tree Warden Update & Tree Evaluations:

- **Tree Evaluations Update** - At the October meeting, the oak tree *near the municipal pool off Goodridge Drive* was asked to be evaluated by the Town's arborist. The risk level was moderate because of the obvious split down the middle. It is healthy, and strong because it is a Pin Oak, but the Town is concerned about the area in which it is planted. The Town would like to cable the Oak.
- Spring planting event at the pool where we remove the norway maples and replant.
- The Tree Board likes the idea of being able to buy plantings on an as needed basis instead of taking care of a nursery.
- They expressed interest in having a county wide nursery or how to work with other towns (Tree Cities) to get transplants.
- Places to buy plants: Fedco in Clinton, Maine has a healthy supply of transplants (ask Jan at Maine Forest Service).
- **Tree Board Annual Report:**
 - Megan will work with the Tree Board to complete the Annual Report next week.
 - Create a calendar for tasks, so that the Tree Board is always prepared for tasks.

6. Monthly Tree Board Activity Update

- **Chairperson Update** - Cindy Blease was up to the garden and pulled some of the invasive plants. The Tree Board should plan a spring event to clean up the garden.

7. Adjournment - Next Meeting Tuesday, December 6, 5:00 pm

The Board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward
Executive Assistant