

**TOWN OF ORONO
TREE BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2022 AT 5:00PM**

**IN-PERSON
CHILDREN'S LEARNING GARDEN
GOODRIDGE DRIVE, ORONO, ME 04473**

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present: Co-Chair Dave Thompson, Co-Chair Cindy Blease, Terri Triandafillou, Kenny Fergusson, Jason Clark, Jennifer Dann, Tim White, Public Works Director and Tree Warden Rob Yerxa, and Environmental Services Coordinator Megan Hess.

Absent: Pat Thompson and Jessica Leahy.

2. Agenda Review – None

3. Election of Officers

Rob Yerxa asked the Board who they would like for their leadership roles.

Jennifer Dann nominated Dave Thompson and Tim White to be Co-Chairs, and Terri seconded. Megan Hess will assist with note taking, applications, and grants. All voted in favor, 7-0.

4. Recommendations to Town Council for New Membership Roles

Tim White talked with Jason Clarke and Kenny Fergusson who have offered to step up to fill the regular member seats. Jessica Leahy will be leaving the Board and Cindy Blease has asked to take an Associate Member position. Dave Thompson and Tim White have agreed to be Co-Chairs.

Motion by Terri Triandafillou and seconded by Jennifer Dann to approve the new membership roles. All voted in favor of the changes, 7-0.

One Associate Member seat remains open and will be advertised for a month.

5. Approval of Minutes of April 5, 2022 Board Meeting

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

6. Tree Warden Update & Tree Evaluations

Tree Evaluation List:

- **2514 Essex Street** - Large Oak showing some signs of degradation. **The Board recommends that the Town should wait and see how it leaves out and reevaluate the tree in a few months.**
- **Penobscot Street** -
 - Locust tree in Orono-Veazie Water District driveway at 47 Penobscot St - **Board recommended it be removed.**
 - Group of approximately 10 locust trees located on a parcel of land owned by Orono Land Trust just past 72 Penobscot St. - **If the Town gets to them, the Board would approve removal, but it's a low priority.**
- **170 Bennoch Rd** - Dead pine tree located at the extreme northwestern corner of the Riverside Cemetery lot. **The Board recommends removal, but it is a low priority.**
- **Park Street at Boulder Drive (Old Town End)** - Twin pine trees located in the area of 157 Park St. - **The Board advises to take them both down because they are by the road and taking them down would increase visibility.**
- **Park Street** - Series of pine trees located at the edge of the roadway in the area of 142 & 144 Park St. - The pines have been in a relatively poor state for some time, either take all of the trees down or none of them so you don't increase wind risk. **The Board advises that we wait and re-evaluate in the fall.** Mr. Yerxa will talk with the property owner and see if they have an opinion.
- **Westwood Drive** - Dead pine at the end of the street. Will likely deal with that as part of the paving or clearing project.
- **Westwood Drive**- Roadside clearing project from the back entrance to the high school to the dead end seems necessary. The Board members couldn't get in there easily to check it out. **The Board will wait and talk about this tree at the June meeting.**
- **Corner of Spencer Street & Main Street** - **Board advises Scots pine to be removed.**
- **38 Pierce Street** - Large maple growing very close to the wires on the street and the house. **Tree Board advises it be removed.**
- **End of Gilbert Street** - Large poplar with a significant scar at the base. Buds indicate that the tree may be okay. It needs a second look in the spring after leaf out. **Tree Board states that there is no reason to remove this tree.** Terri Triandafillou mentioned that about halfway down Gilbert Street is a big silver maple and two big branches are hanging down in the right of way and should be added to next month's agenda.

- **35 Broadway** - Large hardwood leaning over the road and 31 Broadway. Mr. Yerxa will verify the right-of-way location; he is not sure it is a Town tree. **The Board thinks that an arborist should evaluate it, and if the arborist suggests taking it down, then the Town has the approval to remove it.**
- **Pat's Park Tree** - **The Board advises pruning the dead limbs out of the tree.**

Motion by Jennifer Dann and seconded by Terri Triandafillou to approve the Board's recommendation. All voted in favor, 7-0.

7. Maine Arbor Week Planning - 5/16-5/21

- **Arbor Day Celebration at Asa Adams School**

Cindy Blease said that the Arbor Day Celebration will be held on May 19th from 2pm-2:30pm at Asa Adams School. Dave Thompson will pick up tree seedlings for the students on Monday when he goes to Augusta for the Tree City USA event. The Board will talk to the students about Browntail moths and other invasives. They will also talk about the Emerald Ash Borer. Megan Hess will talk about stormwater and the Street and Stream Cleanup Event and send out an email that outlines our events on each day.

- **Godfrey Drive Planting Event 5/20**

Megan Hess stated the grant was accepted, so the Godfrey Drive planting event will take place on May 20th from 3-5pm. Dave Thompson will talk to the volunteers about why we are planting the trees. Dave Thompson, Tim White and Rob Yerxa will flag sites indicating where the trees will be planted. Mr. Thompson will bring a planting bar. The grant will fund the purchase of two planting bars. Ms. Hess will purchase them this week.

- **Education and Outreach - Approve Press Release** – Will go out next Monday.

8. Monthly Tree Board Activity Update

- **Chairperson Update**

The Maine Forest Service's Project Canopy approved 100% of the grant funds for both the Tree Inventory Update project and the Godfrey Drive Planting event.

9. Adjournment - Next Meeting Tuesday, June 7th

At 6:12 p.m., David Thompson motioned and Cindy Blease seconded to adjourn. All voted in favor, 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Ward
Executive Assistant