

Tree Task Force Minutes
July 13, 2023, 6:00
Town Hall Conference Room

Present: Eric, Tyler, Kristen

Updates:

Eric - \$6000.00 worth of granite curbing has been purchased and is stored at DPW facility for landscape islands as needed for future planting project sites. Eric transplanted a 2' tall Silver Maple onto West Street next to RSU5 office lot - he will take care of watering throughout the summer as necessary.

Kristen -Communicated with Adam Bliss via email to clarify organizational roles regarding public tree and grounds maintenance / Invasive insect work contracted with Mike Hughes. Adam did not have specifics regarding Hughes' tree assessments and treatments; did say that Mike worked from a map of Downtown Village ROW's and "dozens" were treated/tagged. Kristen requested that same map from Adam for our clarity of where ROW's are. Susan contacted Mike, but he said he can not release that information to us, so we need to reconnect with Adam to get that (Kristen will follow up). "Building and Grounds" department is being turned over to Earl's oversight on August 1st. Both DPW and B&G are currently understaffed due to worker shortage. Meeting with Andrew at Audubon is scheduled for August 18th, Susan and Tyler attending; finding out what they offer for annual purchasing contracts. Kristen trying to schedule a meeting with Carrie at FCT sometime in August, to find out what they are learning/future actions regarding EAB.

New Discussions:

-LD 1162, *An Act to Protect the Environment by Funding Ash Tree Management* - keep this opportunity for additional resources on our radar.

-Continue Zoning Ordinance amendments - the three of us in attendance finished the last few sections. Kristen will retype the document to reflect TTF's insertions for another group read-through; also will look into Portland's language about requirements for tree replacement/Tree Trust contributions for possible insertion to Freeport's (Does that belong in Zoning, or in our draft Tree Ordinance?); and also, language in Portland's / Brunswick's regarding long-term tree Maintenance requirements

Next Steps:

-Kristen will contact Earl to ascertain how Gorman Park is managed/our role in that? According to Adam, the property was turned over to Freeport with a minimal endowment that has been depleted, by staffing costs of the Building and Grounds division.

-Get advisement from Planning staff as to whether our Zoning insertions align with our draft Tree Ordinance.

-Plan Tree Trust establishment

-'23-'24 Work Plan Matrix