

Tree Task Force Minutes  
March 23, 2023  
6:00

**Present:** Eric, Mark, Kristen, Susan, Tyler

**Updates:**

Eric- Public Tree Program> Council chairs... Eric is meeting with Dan Pilch tomorrow to: get us on a council agenda to present a TTF update. Also, identify a town staff member who is a TTF/ tree-conscious advocate. **Inquire about the process for setting up a Tree Trust.**

Kristen- Climate Action Planning/ FSAB Lecture: Likely to reschedule that to the first week in June so as not to overlap with CAP Workshop which is taking place in May. FSAB suggested a format of a downtown walk with Jeff Tarling / a second speaker. **At next FSAB meeting (3/27 ), Kristen will narrow firm dates to offer the speakers**

Kristen/Tyler- recap 3/1 Planning Board meeting re: future parking lot/development/Design Review ordinances review: the Board was extremely receptive to involving TTF in ordinance review, and as an advisory resource. Suggested we **work on a draft of our suggestions to insert for parking lot requirements** regarding trees/plantings/impervious surface/ borders, to have at the ready once their work begins.

Susan or Marc - obtaining Google Earth or other DOT/ROW maps: Probably need a GIS map- obtained from town engineer.; Tyler had a phone conversation with Tammy at DPW - have access to a data base of each road's ROW; School Street has a surprising 66' or 33' from the center line ROW. Park and Ride. The row for Rte 1 from Desert Rd. to the Yarmouth line is 50' or 25' from the center line, the sidewalk may occupy 4' of the row. So where does that fall at the Park and Ride across from Maine Beer Co.? **Tyler - Find out from Tammy what the ROW distance is for Bow and Middle Street corner**

Tammy also said she could put together a spread sheet indicating the row on various locations if we provide them to her. The DPW has a data base, not maps, containing the information.

Marc - Peter Joseph> Tree Trust... no response (Peter was likely planning his departure). **Marc will reach out again and also ask for GIS map. Susan will also get in contact with MDOT again**

**Discussions:**

- Arbor Week Events (Arbor Week Maine=May 14-20) / Proclamation. Potential second speaker for lecture : Wild Seed/Lucy Birkett/ Eric Topper from Maine Audubon; Susan highly recommends Eric, who oversees programs including native plants, habitat and the 'Bringing Nature Home' educational programs... ask him to speak regarding use of resilient plants in particular downtown places for broadly beneficial purposes. **Susan will contact him. Kristen will reach out to Jeff Tarling to ask if he is still available in June rather than May.**

- First Planting Site/ Arbor Day conjunction?: Key Bank property off the table for now due to uncertainty of next tenant; Saint Jude's / School Street ; and Bow and Middle Streets corner; Park and Ride (volunteers from Maine Beer). Keep Wild Seed informed of our planting plans, they may want to offer advisement. **Susan will choose tree species for each of these sites. Kristen will resend tree well designs to members of TTF, that came from Jeff Tarling / Portland a few years ago.**
- Regular invitation suggested by Bob Stevens for FCAN Woods and Waters to our monthly meetings: Laura Hench is now leading that subcommittee, and she informed Kristen that she is following our work via meeting Minutes, will reach out/ attend if something we are doing overlaps with their projects.
- Jeff Tarling's suggestion that BTM and EAB scouting and mitigation should be a priority for Earl ... talk to Earl about plans to mitigate. **Susan will call Mike Hughs, arborist, to find out if he's consulted with the town lately about their plans to monitor/treat Freeport canopy (esp. brown Ash in Memorial Park?)**
- Consider whether we need to develop a management plan (could be excerpted from Project Canopy Report) to supplement our Public Tree Program, given this charge:  
"The Municipal Tree Task Force shall formulate and continually update a management plan for public trees. Such plan shall be presented to the Freeport Town Council, and, upon acceptance and approval by the Council, the plan shall serve as the basis for the public tree program."  
This group concurs that these are two different documents; and that Earl should be involved with developing that. Include specific quantities/species/ locations/planting schedule. **Tyler will coordinate a daytime meeting for available TTF members to meet with Earl to : update him regarding plantings, use of budget line funds, past planting work he has done, management plan drafting, EAB/BTM monitoring and mitigation plans, ROW/Town Public Property Maps, Canopy Inventory, etc.**

#### **Next Steps:**

Continue to coordinate our first tree planting

Draft a list of planting Standards for Planning Board/ present;

Request a place on Town Council agenda for TTF presentation

Develop Public Relations Plan ex., web page of informational resources for developers/ commercial property owners to facilitate/incentivize alignment with Public Tree Program. : be sure to get PR coverage (i.e., photos of Earl doing the work) of our first planting in the Forecaster/ PPH/ Municipal Bulletin.

Freeport roadside wilding downtown and along Route One South (similar to Maine Beer Co.) where overhead wires are problematic

#### **Next meetings- April 6 / May 4**

Minutes Recorded/submitted by Kristen Dorsey