

## Tree Task Force Minutes November 2, 2023

Attendance : Eric, Susan, Tyler, Marc, Kristen

### Updates

**Climate Action Planning Workshop** (Kristen): emissions targets approved by TC; the visuals and data available on the website public workshops on November 14th/ and Saturday November 18th 10:00-12:00- TTF membership should attend, keep tree canopy/ green infrastructure on the radar for energy efficiency, air and water quality benefits.

**Zoning Amendments and Tree Ordinance/Tree Trust** : Kristen- met with Caroline who advised that we bring them to TC first as an agenda item. FSAB on board to lead the advance of these. Kristen will place the request with Caroline, for the 12/5 TC meeting.

-Eric-contacted Jessica Maloy again for draft of necessary documents. We will not use the format of a "trust" as that is unnecessarily complicated, instead, it is a "Tree Donation Revenue Account" - Kristen will request November 21st or 28th TC agenda item for their authorization to open. This account is also referenced in the draft Zoning amendments, as a mechanism for developers who must remove canopy on building sites, to contribute tree replacement funds in order to restore that compromised canopy.  
-Regarding Earl's suggestion that the tree planting budget line be moved from DPW to the Reserve account to avoid "use it or lose it" - at budget time, Earl may request TC revise/expand the Reserve policy. We would do this with the understanding that it becomes discretionary, not exclusive for our use. Not likely to come into play as we soon (?!) will have more time to develop annual plantings once all the ordinance dust settles. Revisit at budget time.

**Complete Streets** : October meeting attended by Tyler and Kristen. Much overlap of their long-range work plan, mostly around Route One connectivity from the YMCA to West Street and some of the tree planting sites we have in focus. I brought it to their attention that we have a few sites that will involve their oversight regarding sidewalk/curb rebuilds - in particular, Middle and Bow Street, several expanses of Depot Street. Their group also recognizes the complexity of so many distinct town committees and boards doing overlapping work, in silos. Greg Michaud is hoping to compile an updated comprehensive index of all those as well and the contact person, perhaps organized by common charges. They advantageously have Adam Bliss in attendance at all their meetings, so clear answers to technical questions are immediate.

Kristen had a brief post-meeting with Barbara Guffin, is forwarding our Planting Site list to her so their group can monitor overlap of street updates; will request GIS that they use / and the list from Tammy at DPW for easy access to what is public ROW around downtown.

**Freeport High School Earth Club** : Kristen was in contact with the lead student, to invite their involvement with the Climate Action Planning workshops, but also promoted the possibility of their involvement with stewarding some of our future plantings. The group is receptive, and fairly well populated into next school year.

### Business

**'23-'24 Work Plan:** Additions & Deletions from the list of possible projects/ numerical prioritization; sorted into working categories: short & long term,/"check the box" & projects. Will fine-tune with dates next meeting

**Tree Inventory:** Earl has expressed openness to Tree Inventory Maintenance using AUTI (Accessible Urban Tree Inventory), so this can be included in the draft Tree Management Plan. Kim Ballard of Project Canopy would upload data from the original inventory, then DPW can update moving forward - Tammy likely could take this on?

- At our next meeting, we will choose the template that best fits Freeport (templates available, ME Forest Service) and begin drafting.

### Next Steps

Peruse templates for Municipal Tree Management Plans on MFS

Next meeting 12/7 (Susan's last meeting)