

## Tree Task Force Agenda

January 4, 2024

Town Hall Conference Room, 6:00 6:30

Attendance Kristen Dorsey, Tyler Kolle, Eric Horne (arrived at 7:00), Chalmers Hardenbergh, Noah Buehner, Eric Smith

### Updates

#### **Park and Ride/DOT-**

from Earl Gibson on 12/14/23: "We are approved to expand the understory plantings around each of the Maples at the Park & Ride." ✧

#### **Invasives Management -**

from Earl on 12/14/23: "Should we assume he found no evidence of infestation; and that he did not look at street trees as well? (properties are : Memorial / Gorman / Library / Town Hall / Safety Building... ?) *He did look at the properties and treated : Memorial / Gorman / Library / Town Hall / Safety Building)*

*Curious whether inoculation is something that needs to occur on a regular schedule. Yes, however before I can add the treatment to a yearly schedule I need to secure funding for the work.*

*Wondering about the need to treat BTM late Winter '24, especially at Gorman Park. I plan on get the BTM treated in the late February.*

*did he provide any advisement on that? Not at this time.*

*Please see the attachment for the list of trees we have removed in the last two months. " \*\**

#### **Tree Ordinance, Zoning amendments, Revenue Account-**

from Cecilia Smith on 12/28/23: "to follow up on your email regarding processes for ordinance amendments recommended by the Tree Task force. Our new Town Manager, Sophie, and Caroline need to look into this, and they will get back to you with some answers to your questions. It has been a really busy end of the year with projects and holidays and Caroline is on vacation this week, so I apologize for the delay!"

Sophie is in process of assembling Ordinance committee.

#### **Downtown parking lot ownership-**

via email 12/31/23, Kristen learned from Chalmers how he determines ownership : "The 'Commitment Book for Tax Year 2024' ... You'll notice it is organized by the name of the owner... I started with the Tax Map. <https://www.freeportmaine.com/about-freeport/pages/maps> ... I found the parcel number in the tax map, and then found the owner using "find" in the pdf of the Commitment Book, looking for the map # and then the parcel #." He sent Kristen an attachment of this 'Commitment Book' which is a municipal document.

Eric Smith- Parking lot ownership can also be accessed Town web site ( must have Google Earth downloaded): 'About Freeport' > 'Maps' tab > KMZ file of 2020 parcel data > open within GoogleEarth

Grove Street has some stumps in ROW, and also is a potential housing development site...Grange has been hosting community Gardens along Grove Street, by permission of property owner; want to host on their property again- have a greenhouse, removing trees to get more sun exposure.

Discussion around eventual Depot Street housing developments / Design Review changes under consideration, and funding issues around public-private standards for tree vitality.

### New Business

**DPW's 2023 maintenance cutting/pruning list \*\*** - included here, see below. Revisit who: Should we ask Earl if Tammy could maintain the inventory; or Meddy.

### **Submitting Invasives PDF's to the next Town Bulletin -**

Monthly update from Project Canopy/Dept. of Forestry included informational PDF's for citizens to identify/eliminate of Browntail Caterpillar nests, Holly Adelgid, Emerald Ash Borer

### **Prioritize 2024 planting sites, add these to Work Plan-**

-Eric suggested we set an annual goal of planting i.e., "12 trees a year" (will need to check the planting budget and calculate cost of our other more complex projects ~ scout dig-ready locations for these single-plantings, and look at species diversification suggestions in the Project Canopy report.

- The 'Big Ones' to pursue this year: 1) Middle and Bow Street corner 2) Town Property behind Starbucks = currently two food carts there. Eric shared that the town has, over the past few years, considered enhancing that space as a 'Pocket Park'. Kristen will take photos and measurements, and pass the ideas by Complete Streets.

-For Park and Ride expansion: get in touch with Wild Seed Project, Audubon: Bringing Nature Home for plant suggestions and plant ordering (Kristen); and Carrie Seaver at Maine Beer Company for a volunteer maintenance crew commitment (Tyler)

### **Other-**

-Question: Should the Management Plan absorb the "Tree Program" document? Group concluded that the Tree Program should be archived as a "Guiding Principles" statement.

-Revisited the idea of having someone (Tammy?) at Dept. of Public Works be responsible for updating the Inventory annually; Kim Ballard at Project Canopy had said once the software is in place, it's a minimal time commitment. Kristen will forward the information from her to Eric, who will call Earl to discuss this possibility. Of the trees Earl cut this year, the two Maples on South Street are the only ones from 2019 Inventory data. Could these be replaced nearby as part of our "12 Trees a Year" goal?

### **Draft the Management Plan- Tabled**

[referring to the *Northeast Center for Urban & Community Forestry Holdsworth Natural Resource Center. University of Massachusetts Amherst, A GUIDE: DEVELOPING A STREET AND PARK TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN.* (USDA Forest Service) ]

### Next Steps-

Post Work Plan to website/submit to Council chairs

Contact Chris Wolfe about applications of interested volunteers for TTF -Kristen

In Spring, ask Chalmers to do article about trees at Park and Ride.

Identify single tree sites, run them by Earl.

Conceptual designs of the two 2024 major planting sites

Management Plan development

Next Meeting Wednesday, February 7 @ 6:30. The new 2024 TTF meeting schedule is: the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30.

Minutes submitted by Kristen Dorsey 1/ 9/24

**Tree Cutting: Nov. – Dec. 2023**

Murch Rd	b/w houses #10 & 12	(1) poplar tree
Webster Rd	b/w houses #49 & 55	(2) oaks
Old South Freeport Rd	at house #38	(2) poplars
Staples Point Rd	at houses #1 & 41, near CMP pole #18	(4) oaks
Stagecoach Rd	at house #1 Pine St	(1) dead pine
Wolfe Neck Rd pine	at houses #3 & #54	(1) maple + (1) dead
Flying Point Rd	@ Town line/CMP pole #146 and house #70	(3) maples
Pleasant Hill Rd	at house #123	(2) oaks
Upper Mast Landing Rd	at house #86	(1) pine
Noble Dr	at CMP pole #1-2	(1) poplar
Burnett Rd (blowdowns)	b/w CMP poles #7 & #6	(3) pines
South St	at house #56	(2) maples