

## Tree Task Force Minutes

February 7, 2024

(first Wednesday)

Town Hall Conference Room, 6:30

Attendance Eric Horne, Tyler Kolle, Kristen Dorsey

### Updates

-(Kristen) Complete Streets has put us on their February agenda to exchange input re: two proposed landscaping sites= Bow and Middle Streets corner, and Peddler's site behind Starbucks. Will also inquire about the oak tree in front of Bartol Library which is lifting the sidewalk.

- Replacement TTF member / applications- we did not receive a response from the person who had filed a volunteer application with Town Clerk. Kristen will reach out again; Eric and Kristen each have possible candidates that we can reach out to.
- (Tyler) did not hear back from Maine Beer Company re: volunteer willingness and capacity to help with proposed plantings/garden maintenance at Park and Ride. MBCo. difficult to get through to specific staff, i.e., Carrie Seaver, by phone. Kristen shared her email and phone number to Tyler who will try again and/or ask Susan to get him connected.
- (Eric) DPW Tree Inventory updating: Earl very willing to keep inventory using AUTI, Eric will get it up and running with him. Earl also informed that he needs to cut the Oak tree in front of Bartol Library as the roots are lifting the brick sidewalk. Jonathan Dawson, land manager at FCT, suggested lopping the roots instead.
- (Kristen) Wild Seed Project/ Audubon's "Bringing Nature Home" plant and tree sourcing: Contacted each of these organizations for consideration of the Park and Ride/ Bow and Middle Street as Demonstration Gardens. I did not mention Starbucks due to unknowns about food cart positioning there this Summer and need to find out from Complete Streets what other ideas have been considered for that space. Audubon is enthusiastic about facilitating that; awaiting Wild Seed's program manager to discuss it with the Executive Director.
- We had a discussion about just diving into planting trees at the Starbucks location vs. planning the whole site first. Same deliberation about the Bartol Library property. Because there are many other considerations/projects/ approvals from other committees that overlap with TTF's; and because most sites need considerable soil and tree well preparation, not as simple as it sounds.

### New Business

**Town Council Appearance-** Agreed that TTF should do a Work Plan presentation/Revenue Account Approval request. Kristen will request a placeholder in an upcoming agenda. Work Plan has been posted on FSAB site.

**Ordinance Committee-** On 1/25 the Ordinance Committee was called to meet by the Town Manager for the first time in a while. TTF was not notified despite our Ordinance draft being on the agenda. Tree Ordinance draft was discussed- according to Chalmer's reporting, *"Wilson expressed frustration with a 'six-page ordinance around public trees.' She suggested that the Committee consider using 'policies' as opposed to 'ordinances' because the former were much easier to adapt... Wilson suggested that rather than having the committees draft a full ordinance, that the Council liaison (or the staff member of the committee) report to her as town manager the priorities which the committee wanted to deal with. These could then go through a "staff and legal process," which would develop a packet to go to the Ordinance Committee, and then to Council."* Next meeting is scheduled for 2/8, Kristen will attend with the assumption that our work will be discussed again, although no agenda has been

posted. Also seeking clarification of terminologies: "Ordinance" / "Policy" / "Statute" / "code" / "standards", etc. ?? What's the status of our draft Zoning Ordinance amendments??!

### **Monthly Tree Topic in Municipal Bulletin**

February issue TTF submission was about Winter monitoring for Brown Tail Caterpillar nests, although the Bulletin has not been released yet. Next month, **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid**- Kristen was invited by Freeport Conservation Trust and attended online webinar 1/23 hosted by ME Land Trust Network on the topic of identifying and mitigating **HWA** - was provided with resource links to PDF's on the topic of HWA that can be used for March Town Bulletin.

### **State Forester**

Eric recalled that the Maine Forest Service has Foresters assigned to state regions. We should get in touch with ours and find out what type of assistance he can offer i.e., inspecting particular trees and advising how to maintain or suggest species appropriate to locations, etc.

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

[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) ]

Due to lateness of this meeting, we only dabbled with the preliminary draft that Kristen prepared by cutting and pasting informational and recommendation elements of the Project Canopy Report into the Plan categories. This will be the first agenda item next month- applying dates and Board/ Municipal Staff roles. Insert 'one collaboration per year' which could solidify the educational component of our work, whether with schools, citizen volunteers, or organizations.

### Next Steps

- (Kristen)Request TC Agenda slot within the next couple of months
- (Eric)- Contact Earl re: any budget process information and affirm that he supports a "Tree Reserve Account" origination by the TC so that funds roll over into the next year; and that it is his role to suggest this during his Budget presentation. Find out the date of his budget presentation. Also inquire of him any specific recommendations for single-tree planting sites
- Identify 10-12 single tree planting sites : look at our list developed in 2022; plot all of the stumps downtown and replace each of those in the same vicinity?
- (Tyler)- Maine Beer Co. / investigate State Forester resource
- (Kristen)- Attend next Complete Streets meeting to share info about potential of Audubon and Wild Seed collaborations; discuss technicalities of rehabilitating sites: 1)corner of Bow and Middle Streets 2)behind Starbuck's and 3) Bartol Library

### Next Meeting March 6

- Consider Arbor Week Events : APCAW presentation and field workshops regarding Basket Ash / highlight our individual tree plantings

Recorded by Kristen Dorsey