

Tree Task Force Minutes

August 4, 2022

Present: Eric, Marc (left at 6:30), Kristen, Susan, Tyler

Downtown Site Walk - Followed Depot Street > Bow > Main > Town Hall:

FCS to Mallett Office Building ... parking lot and curb are excellent sites for islands or curbside wells with major canopy trees; no power lines to contend with. Small tree in front of FCS needs pruning. Large stump on corner of Grove should be replanted. Who owns the lots on either side of the private home?

Site of proposed Condo building ... Existing Linden tree on curb is in excellent condition- should try to preserve during construction (many municipalities require this for trees over a certain diameter during site plan review); will likely lose the other five smaller trees on that tree lawn, possibly another 2 larger ones against retaining wall of church lot: all of those should have replacements planted elsewhere in order to preserve existing canopy (also often a requirement). It was suggested at Project Review presentation that the power lines may be moved across the street - is burying them a financially comparable option?

Corner of Mill Street/Depot Street ... across from the Nordica, power lines cut the corner diagonally, so good site for a canopy tree. Same side as Nordica, boulders with gravel - are these covering buried electricity to street lights? If not, trees should be planted.

Depot Street ... Petrillos to corner - This section of street may be optimal for narrowing road and building bump-out tree islands. 2 Maples= poor health due to incorrect planting conditions- they might be Norways so should be replaced anyway, shrubs should be utilized at bases to improve growing conditions, as was done with the very healthy Linden between Petrillos building and next strip of stores. Former tree grates in sidewalk are evident- probably removed when brickwork done... great opportunity for many plantings along here.

Middle Street ... lot on corner of Middle and Bow Streets - signed as "Public", but who owns it? Needs tree islands and space reconfiguration; also along both streets' curbs. Very healthy Honey Locust on Gypsy Rags side, and Ash on the corner... could enhance the corner with complimentary base shrubbery and ground cover vegetation.

No power lines on west side of Bow from Orvis to Linda Bean's; small lawn by Mexicali is a great place for a pocket park/canopy tree.

Intersection of Bow/Main ... potential for green roundabout in front of L.L. Bean.

Broad brickwork on corner in front of Linda Bean's restaurant, with no power lines- canopy tree with base plantings opportunity; unhealthy crab apple that should be replaced.

Main Street from Bow Street to Town Hall ... south side has power lines, but wide sidewalk and potential to narrow the road, so plant species that are lower or narrower or utilize bump-outs for tree wells. Top of Mill Street and entrance to Village Station mall has set back space for possible tree plantings or at least low shrubs. North side, from Boat and Ski to Gap has many sickly trees; corner of Holbrook= 2 dead trees.

Town Hall lawn ... keep the birches as they are healthy and significant canopy.

Informational Exchange-

*Student Grant Writer - Muskie School, doing a project and interested in our work. Provided her with resources to search for relevant grants; will keep in touch with us during the semester to collaborate on details.

*Earl Gibson's ordinance review notes - a few minor terminology additions; Kristen will forward the draft to Peter once those edits are made.

*Potential collaborations with commercial property owners/developers - at our next meeting we will consider which in-progress projects we should communicate with to inform of the resources we have available for referencing beneficial "landscaping"/ canopy increase.

*Monitoring work of other relevant town boards - a volunteer from this group should review monthly agendas of Project Review Board, then members take turns attending those of interest. Caroline suggested we eventually create a web page with resources for developers/ commercial property owners to use that will facilitate/incentivize aligning projects with our Public Tree Program.

Review Draft Tree Program - Tabled for next meeting

Proposed Next Steps-

*Finalize Tree Program

* Obtain an Ownership Map to determine status of downtown parking lots.

*Assign individual members to make contact with: Adam Bliss on Tree Inventory maintenance; David or Abby Latuillippe re: Depot Street housing project; Yarmouth Tree Committee; Rte One/South Freeport Road commercial property owner; Earl re: trees we identified on our site walk that need pruning; Peter re: town hall lawn proposed re-landscaping.

*Develop the '22-'23 TTF Action Plan

Adjourned at 7:20

Minutes recorded by Kristen Dorsey