

Input for FSAB 5/9/22 Meeting
Kristen Dorsey

TTF Report : We had to postpone our 5/5 meeting to 5/19, at which we will begin drafting a Tree Ordinance using samples / templates provided by Kim Ballard. This is our first priority to serve as the foundation for our strategic planning and to seal up the requirements for Tree City designation.

In regard to the Vision Recommended Actions, of note in our group's past planning discussions:

~Not only should we increase the canopy to the recommended percentage per 2019 Tree Survey, we need to maintain what exists. So, if during downtown redevelopment trees are removed, then there should be a requirement for replacements to be planted elsewhere in the downtown radius.

~At our past meetings, we have already prioritized the goal of creating a section of boulevard somewhere along Route One South and also consider the intersection of Desert Road/Rte One South/Main Street to be a place with great potential for canopy that serves as a welcome to downtown. Earl Gibson is in full support of these initiatives.

~With the understanding that the downtown will be under redesign for the next several years, our group intends to be on watch for the opportunities to install public tree wells as well as solicit/encourage developers or downtown commercial property owners to include canopy. The Project Canopy report includes data/findings regarding the plethora of benefits of tree canopy that all relate to boosting economic development. This will be complicated, however, by the above-ground power lines and proximity of most storefronts to the curb and the relative narrowness of the downtown streets.

~ Parking lots, both existing and new, should be required to have a designated number of native shade trees per # of parking spaces - for the cooling and air quality controls that this provides.

Kim also provided us with a list of species that are projected to be Maine climate-change resilient.

Here are my personal thoughts about the Downtown action items that could mesh with the Resiliency Partnership grants for your meeting discussion - since I will be absent:

1.1 Street Trees- mentions PWD, but not the TTF; although we plan to work collaboratively with Earl, the Tree Task Force needs more promotion in this document!

1.2 / 6.10 Playgrounds and dog parks ... places for tree planting; recycling containers: we haven't talked about this, but other cities have municipality maintained recycling receptacles... and extremely functional Sustainability enterprise, but also great optics, if that's your thing. #51

2.1 / 2.3 Locations of multi family / intergenerational housing- if high-rises then perfect for rooftop solar panels / rooftop or vertical community gardens. Substantial green space / tree canopy requirements for this type of housing; high efficiency.

3.8 Another action item on our TTF list is to develop a town Tree Walk - individual trees have signage linked to GPS/QR codes with info about the species, age of the tree, etc. #51

4.1 / 5.5 / 1.1 / 1.2 Boulevards- see TTF summary notes above. Goal # 51,52, 54, 56

4.11 / 5.6 / 5.2 Satellite Parking / Park Once Strategy: perfect locations for EV chargers as the cars will remain in place while owners head downtown by other means

5.1 No cost, just FSAB drafting / promotion to TC

5.3/ 5.4 5.5: all can be baked in to several of the Resiliency grant goals

5.7 : What the heck is a Sustainability Mobility Hub?

5.9 / 5.10 : Resiliency goal #43