

# DRAFT

## EXETER TREE COMMITTEE

Minutes from May 11, 2020

**Members Present:** Eileen Flockhart (chair), Sally Ward, Greg Jordan (Rockingham County Forester), Gwen English

**Staff Present:** Kristen Murphy, Greg Bisson, Jay Perkins

Zoom meeting commenced at 8:30AM with Eileen Flockhart reading the 91-A-2 emergency preamble and subsequently calling the roll.

April 9, 2020 minutes were unanimously approved

### 1. Lincoln Street School playground tree planting update:

- a. A 3" caliper Lacebark Elm/Chinese Elm has been selected, and the logistics for moving the tree will be worked out by Jay Perkins and Dave Short from Stratham Hill Nursery.
- b. DPW will take care of digging the hole and setting the tree a day prior to the event. (For the tree's protection, it will be tied up until planted)
- c. Greg Bisson will provide a tree diaper. This will be soaked in advance, and he will coordinate the installation of the diaper with Jay Perkins. The tree diaper requires little maintenance, and ¼" of rain per month should adequately refill it.
- d. Gwen will bring a 'ceremonial shovel' for the tree planting on 5/21/20.

### 2. Event update

- a. Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> has been chosen as the event day, with the ceremony to begin at 1:00PM at the Lincoln Street School playground.
- b. Exeter TV will film the event, and the LSS Green Team is preparing a video clip
- c. Eileen Flockhart will work with Kristen Murphy on the Conservation Commission facebook and web page, and will provide Kristen with an official Tree City logo. Sally Ward suggested that we should also include a picture of the tree, and Eileen thought that a video of the tree being loaded onto the truck from Stratham Hill Nursery would also be interesting.
- d. Eileen has contacted Alex Lacasse from the Exeter Newsletter about doing a story of this event. Hoping this will be printed on Friday, prior to the tree planting.
- e. Water Street Bookstore is planning on putting together a tree-theme window display. Perhaps other businesses in Town can do the same! This would be great for public awareness of our celebration.
- f. Prior to the event, Eileen Flockhart will set up 6' distance markers for safety, and notes that all participants should wear face masks.

*These minutes are subject to possible corrections/revisions at a subsequent Tree Committee meeting.*

- g. Exeter has been provided with a flag (approximately 4'x6') and two big signs that will be appropriately positioned at the event. Jay Perkins will make sure that there are stakes or posts for securing these. He also suggests that after the event the flag be raised either at the Town Hall or at the Town Office if we can get permission to do so.
- h. Due to the Covid-19 conditions, attendees should be notified prior to the event and given instructions about how the tree ceremony will be run.

*Andrew Baristow, principal of Lincoln Street School, arrived at 8:43AM*

*Deb Trombley joins at 8:50AM.*

### **3. Event Day**

- a. Suggested attendees for the event are: Drew Baristow, Katie Pupino and Keith Schmitt from Lincoln Street School. Jay Perkins, Kristen Murphy, Russ Dean, Julie Gilman, Peter Waltz, Sarah Sankowich (or perhaps another parent from Lincoln Street School), and Eileen Flockhart. Bob Glowacky will be in attendance, but can keep a safe distance away with cameras and sound equipment. Greg Jordan has been invited to attend, but his work policy may dictate that he cannot participate due to Covid-19.
- b. Drew Baristow, Keith Schmitt and Katie Pupino will deliver brief speeches.
- c. A.J. Dupree has encouraged the Tree Committee to take pictures of the event, and call this our Arbor Day celebration. Sally Ward will ask her husband, Malcolm, if he would be willing to be the photographer.
- d. Individuals interested in participating from afar could sit in their cars in the school parking lot.
- e. Eileen will inquire about involving the fire department and perhaps Unitil after the tree planting ceremony, and having a 'mini parade' through Town with the signs and/or flag prominently displayed on their trucks.

**Meeting Adjourns at 9:23AM**

Respectfully submitted by Gwen English