

Exeter Tree Committee Meeting Minutes Nov. 18, 2020

Members in attendance via Zoom: Eileen Flockhart, chair, Gwen English, Sally Ward, Jay Perkins, Greg Jordan, Kevin Breen, Kristen Murphy

Eileen read the emergency provision preamble and all attendees noted that no other person was in the room with them.

The minutes of the Sept. 23 meeting were reviewed and approved (motion? Second?) There was no meeting in October of 2020.

Eileen gave a summary of the activities for this past year which included regular meetings over zoom, May 21 Arbor Day planting of an elm tree at Lincoln St. School with safely distanced guests, committee and sub committee work continued on our Tree Ordinance, resumption of work with LSS Green Team for 20-21 year, continuing plans for 3 new trees on Park St. Common and finally our reapplication to Tree City USA.

Jay Perkins noted that 3 of the dead trees nearest the church on Lincoln St. have been replaced. He was not notified, just happened to see the work going on. A discussion followed about the responsibility of contractors for tree planting to coordinate with Jay as our tree warden. He did mention that the new sewer and water project on Salem and Oak will be closely supervised by him.

Kevin described our first "Tree Walk and Talk" on Oct. 23. It was held at Gilman Park and we walked a side trail along the river that many of us had not really seen. This was the first time for us so we decided to just do committee folks and see how it goes. We hope to schedule several of these thru the next year and beyond and have them filmed by Exeter TV so that more people can enjoy and learn from them. It was a big success and we all learned lots of new ways to see trees and their habitat. Kevin was great. He has agreed to suggest a couple of future walks we could do in all weather and we can then proceed to check with Bob Glowacky about filming and inviting limited numbers of the public so we can safely distance everyone.

There was a discussion of the effects that this severe drought has had on trees and other species this year. The lovely elm by our flag pole and sign was doing fine this spring, but by Sept. was terribly distressed and we may lose it. No sign of Dutch elm disease though so that was good. Tree diaper was added as soon as distress was noted. We will have to be vigilant through next year to see how things survive. Our Tree City USA flag will be stored by Jay till spring.

We decided not to have a Dec. meeting but that we will receive emails from Kevin and Eileen with regard to future tree walks and planning, but no committee decisions would be made.

Our next meeting will be Wed. Jan. 6th at 8:30 am on zoom.

Respectfully submitted

Gwen English and Eileen Flockhart