

Town of Exeter
EXETER TREE COMMITTEE
January 6, 2021
Virtual Meeting
Minutes

I. PRELIMINARIES:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT BY ROLL CALL: Chair Eileen Flockhart, Deb Twombly, Kevin Breen, Greg Jordan, Exeter TV, Gwen English

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Bisson, Jay Perkins.

- II. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Flockhart called the meeting to order at 8:30AM and read out loud the meeting preamble which indicated that an emergency exists and the provisions of RSA 91-A:2 III (b) are being invoked. As federal, state and local officials have determined gatherings of ten or more people pose a substantial risk to the community and the meeting imperative to the continued operation of Town and government and services which are vital to public, health, safety and confidence. This meeting will be conducted without a quorum physically present in the same location and welcome members of the public accessing the meeting remotely.

III. **OLD BUSINESS:**

Approve minutes of November 18, 2020

IV. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Chair Flockhart reported that she submitted the reapplication (signed by Town Manager Russ Dean) to Tree City USA prior to the December 31, 2020 deadline.

The Conservation Commission featured a scavenger hunt at the Raynes Farm property. Should we consider a project like this to generate some interest in Exeter's trees?

Kevin Breen has contemplated some ideas for a tree walk, and has selected a few sites that might work well. An area on PEA property is on his list, and he will reach out to the Academy to determine if that would be permissible, and what time frame would work best.

Greg Jordan reminded the committee members that there is an Urban Forestry Today webinar on January 14, 2021 at noon, featuring a discussion on the development and implementation of a community tree plan. They are recorded, and one can gain access to them by going to urbanforestrytoday.org

Deb Twombly informed us that there is a Tree Identification workshop on Friday, January 15 at 1:00. Information on that is available at SELT.org

Kristen Murphy, Exeter's Natural Resource Planner, suggests that we do a presentation to the Selectboard members on what we have accomplished to date.

The topic of Exeter's tree survey arose, and whether we could get an intern, possibly from UNH, to work on this. Is there funding available? (Jay Perkins indicated that his department's PT position was cut, and funding has been cut.) Should a job description be put together that would indicate the pay, time frame for work to be completed, and a job description? The last survey was done in 2017 and we can try to update that. A.J. Dupere and Greg Jordan might be willing to spot-check some area trees. It was mentioned that Kristen Murphy might have the previous job description. Gwen can follow up on this. The previous intern's strength was in programming and software, and with tree identification software available, the intern wouldn't necessarily need to be a dendrologist!

The committee had a brief discussion about the future planting of trees. Are there trees that need to be replaced? We will determine the status of the Elm tree by our flagpole and sign this spring.

Sara Sankowich joined the meeting at 9:05.

Sara indicated that the Connecticut Tree Protective Association has webinars, for example, on Climate Change and Pruning trees after storm damage.

No date has been set as yet for the tree plantings at Park Street Common. Trees have been selected and tagged, and are waiting at Stratham Circle Nursery. Perhaps that could be part of an actual Arbor Day celebration!

Eileen Flockhart wonders if a report on the Tree Committees efforts should also be delivered to the Conservation Commission.

Greg Bisson brought up the issue of trees at Gilman Park, and that was followed by a brief discussion about a pollinator garden that is being planned at Lincoln Street School. Chair Flockhart asked members if they have any tips on milkweed plants, and/or knew of places to find milkweed plants.

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, February 11th, 2021 at 8:30AM**

V. **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30AM