

Draft Minutes: November 10, 2021

**Town of Exeter, New Hampshire  
EXETER TREE COMMITTEE**

**I. PRELIMINARIES:**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT BY ROLL CALL: Eileen Flockhart (Chair), Gwen English  
Sally Oxnard, Sally Ward

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Bisson, Kristen Murphy, Jay Perkins

**II. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Flockhart called the meeting to order at 8:35AM

**III. OLD BUSINESS:**

Minutes of 10/13/2021 were approved as written.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

Eileen reports that on Monday, 11/1/2021, she and Kristen went to the Selectboard meeting for the second hearing for the Tree Ordinance. Some changes were made. On 11/15/2021 the Tree Ordinance goes back to the Selectboard for its third and final reading. Sally requested a final copy of the Ordinance and Kristen volunteered to send it out to all the committee members. Kristen indicated she might have a conflict on the evening of 11/15, but Eileen, Gwen and others plan to attend.

Greg Bisson is still working on the final draft of the Tree Donation paperwork and will get that to the Selectboard for approval.

Eileen brought up the Champion Tree project and thought it would be important to contact the schools to get children involved. We could tell the teachers and students that we're going to identify Champion trees in Exeter, and get students to participate. Sally Ward thought we could put something about this on facebook, and include a definition of Champion trees from UNH Cooperative Extension. Sally Oxnard has volunteered to contact Main Street School and the Middle School, Eileen will contact the Lincoln Street School, Gwen will contact Anne DeMarco (the Animal and Plant science teacher) at SST. This project could get introduced in a science class, then the kids could take it from there.

Eileen indicated that the student Champion Tree submittal form should request a picture of the tree, a measurement of the tree (the circumference), the location of the tree, and the type of tree (if the students are able to identify the tree). Some located trees may be 'serious Champion Trees', but others may be future

champions! This will help build an awareness about trees in Exeter! Gwen felt that this could be like a scavenger hunt, and could be presented as such! Kristen volunteered to work on a flyer for us to send to the schools, and a Google form for the students to fill out. Greg Bisson indicated that Tara Barker, in Greg's office, may be able to help Kristen with the form.

We talked about having a drawing from a pool of qualified entries, and Greg Bisson offered to donate \$25.00 that could be applied, by the winner, to the cost of enrolling in a Parks and Recreation program.

Kristen mentioned that she and Jay had already submitted details on a potential Champion Tree, a Basswood on/near the Morrissette property, by the Seacoast School of Technology.

Eileen proposed that we plant a tree at the end of this project. We can watch it grow to be a future Champion Tree!

The next topic of discussion was the Tree City USA re-application. Eileen told the committee that we have accumulated over 500 volunteer hours, not including Sara's donations from Unitil, and the in-kind donations for trees that we've planted.

For the Growth Award, we need ten points. (As defined in the Growth Award paperwork.) We could use the ordinance for our first Growth Award application. Next year we could use the interpretative tree walks, Sally Oxnard (as our new member), and Deb Twombly's course in Canterbury, NH. Eileen indicated that this all goes in conjunction with the Tree City USA re-application.

A question arose about our Tree City account, and the reason behind Dave Sharples's name being on the account log in. Kristen will look into this. An active member should be able to log in, particularly since the Growth Award is done electronically.

Eileen reviewed Kevin's tree walk and talk at the Academy on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Eileen and Gwen attended. Kevin will be willing to do another one in December, and perhaps Kristen could highlight it on the Conservation Commission's facebook page. We could look at the Bull Pine at Henderson Swasey Town Forest, and perhaps do a walk on the Riverwoods campus. Eileen thought it would be interesting to connect the large trees with historical events.

Kristen mentioned that the swamp white oaks on the Griset property in Exeter were saved during the review process of his proposed development because of our regulations.

Kristen went on to update us on the iTree project that contains data collected by Dan Lewis. She is working with Rob Pruyne, the GIS manager at RPC, and Andy Swanson. The goal is to develop a program using GIS Survey123, an application that anyone can download. The information gathered can be entered into GIS so that we can locate Exeter's street trees. Eileen would like to hold a "learn some technology" session so we all can become more familiar with this and other technical programs.

Greg Bisson told the committee that Exeter Parks and Recreation has a new employee, Andrew Clawson, who will start his employment with the Town on November 29. Sally thought we should invite Andrew to a Tree Committee meeting once he gets settled in.

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 8:30AM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gwen English