

DRAFT MINUTES (1/19/22)

Town of Exeter
EXETER TREE COMMITTEE
January 19, 2022

I. PRELIMINARIES:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT BY ROLL CALL: Eileen Flockhart (Chair), Deb Twombly, Sally Oxnard, Sara Sankowich, Dave Short, Gwen English, Greg Jordan

STAFF PRESENT: Kristen Murphy (Natural Resource Planner)

II. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:40AM

III. OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes of December 15, 2021 were unanimously approved.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

Kristen noted that the Alewife Festival scheduled for May 14 would be a good way for the Tree Committee to connect with the community.

Deb told the group about Dr. Barry Rock (UNH Biology Professor Emeritus) who has three one-hour talks about Climate Change, talking mostly about trees, and she suggested that he might be willing to do a special talk for us.

Eileen would like to get school children involved in finding Champion trees before the Alewife Festival, and felt that we should consider a kick-off event to get the ball rolling. Deb wondered if we could get Kevin Martin to do a "learning event" about trees. Greg Jordan knows Kevin, and indicated that perhaps he and Kevin could do a walking tour. Using a laser, he could measure tree height and could do a walking field trip near Lincoln Street School. (There is a champion oak tree near Lincoln Street that would be interesting for the kids to see.)

There was considerable discussion about how to make the search for Champion trees more exciting and friendlier for kids, and it was ultimately decided that we would reformat the contest a bit. The current thinking is to create a map showing all of Exeter's existing big trees. Using this map, the kids can try to find the trees, and then take a photo of all seven (or fewer if some are on private land) and send those pictures in to the group. The contest will also have an option to nominate a new big tree. Those who submit all photos of the trees will get a small prize. Those who nominate a (new) big tree will be entered into a drawing for the grand prize of a \$25 gift

certificate to a Parks and Recreation program! The contest would end before the end of the school year.

Sally Oxnard agreed to follow up on a contact with Main Street School. Gwen has reached out to Anne DeMarco at SST, Kristen will contact Bob Johnson at the Middle School. Sara can give Sally Oxnard some names to contact at the Main Street School.

The discussion moved on to the labeling of trees, and Kristen noted that we had decided to put the common name, the scientific name and the QR code on the plates. Jay will provide the granite pieces for these labels. Dave suggested that we start off by labeling the contest trees. He wondered where the money will come from for these labels, and it is thought that perhaps Jay Perkins will have some money in his budget for them, OR we can reach out to the Conservation Commission. Perhaps there may also be grant funds available. At this point, we would probably not order more than 10 labels. Deb will send links to Kristen of manufacturers. Dave and Deb will work together to create a list of the number and species of trees. Keith Schmitt and Katie Pupino continue to be good contacts at the Lincoln Street School.

Kristen brought up the question about the “Preamble and Purpose” language, and asked the committee members to give this some thought. It could live on the Tree Committee page on the website. Once she gets a consensus from the committee, she can format it.

Kristen also noted that Eileen has submitted the Tree City application but we don't yet know about the Growth Award.

Sally asked about Survey 123, and Kristen responded that she is working on this and ran into a bit of a snag. She has Dover's Survey 123 format, and needs to work out the details with Andy and RPC. She's hopeful that we can pull this off this year.

Kristen asked Deb to send a link, or email, to her about the Barry Rock presentations. (He has recorded three college level lectures all about trees.) Deb will also get specific dates to Kristen.

Deb has agreed to set up the next Zoom meeting.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MARCH 8TH AT 8:30AM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gwen English (1/31/22)

