

## DRAFT MINUTES

Town of Exeter  
EXETER TREE COMMITTEE  
April 5, 2022

**I. PRELIMINARIES:**

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Greg Bisson, Kristen Murphy, Jay Perkins

**II. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 8:45AM

**III. OLD BUSINESS:**

Minutes from March 8, 2022 were unanimously approved.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

Noted that there are yellow markers on some trees at Swasey Parkway, and it is thought that those are marking trees to be pruned/trimmed on 4/29/2022

Greg Bisson has PEA volunteers helping with cleanup of roadsides and parks on 4/25/2022 for PEA's Climate Action Day (Earth Day)

Eileen informed the committee that she and Judy Lamphere spent 2.5 hours at Main Street School visiting every classroom (totaling over 400 children) informing them about the Champion Tree hunt. Tonja Neve (MSS Principal) accompanied them and was very helpful in making this a successful campaign.

**Big Tree/Champion Tree project**

How do we keep this champion tree project in everyone's sight? Is there a newsletter, digital or otherwise, that would accept information from us about this project? (Perhaps a SAU digital newsletter?) Can we also ask Drew Bairstow and Tonja Neve about putting something in a digital newsletter? Possibly look at a variety of facebook pages: The sustainability group? 'Green Groups'? Kristen will put something on the ConCom page, and may pose the question "What tools have you used to measure the trees?".

Can we give out awards or prizes for participants? Sally Oxnard suggested giving coupons for ice cream, and thought we might be able to get a 'group discount' at local ice cream shops for purchasing the coupons.

QR code responses from the contest will go to Kristen Murphy.

Eileen and Jay spoke about the hands-on event at LSS, with the Green Team. Jay taught the students how to measure trees, and felt that this was a very successful event. It was suggested that we reach out to Keith Schmitt at LSS for photos of this, and perhaps have a few kids from his classroom submit their measurement in the contest. Perhaps they could even do a classroom entry!

### **Alewife Festival**

Scheduled for May 14, 2022 between 9:00AM and 1:00PM at Founders Park  
Kristen is coordinating the event, but all participants will coordinate plans for their own tables....and should bring their own tables if possible.

(Greg Bisson has volunteered to bring a table for the Tree Committee)

Will consider ordering pencils to give as handouts at this event.

(We can purchase them for \$16-\$17 for 50 pencils)

Also considering the purchase of 'I love trees' or 'Plant Trees' tattoos

*(Whatever we provide, it should NOT be a single use plastic, so the distribution of stickers is not encouraged at the Alewife festival)*

We will look to Tree City USA to see if they have any 'gift things' that could be handed out. It's their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary so they may have some ideas/products for us.

Kristen will forward the Tree City information to the group.

It would be good to have the tags on trees before the Alewife Festival.

Deb has volunteered to order these through a group she works with in Portsmouth. (The tags would probably be ordered from National Band and Tag Company, and would include the Common name, Latin Name, and whether the tree is a native or non-native variety). There is a \$35.00 set up fee, and the labels are \$10.00 each. Greg Bisson will pay for these.

Trees located in Swasey Parkway, Gilman Park, LSS, and 'the triangle' would be possible sites for labeled trees.

Dave Short will meet Sally at Swasey Parkway to help with tree identification.

Greg reminded the group about the Parks and Recreation Alewife Run raffle, "Guess the Alewife Run Date". Tickets to win a kayak are \$10.00 each and submissions must be entered by April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Drawing will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Tree planting**

The committee discussed planting trees at LSS and MSS.

MSS needs shade trees, but there is concern about planting them in a location where they would thrive, and at a time when they could be properly cared for.

Tree diapers on the playground will likely get destroyed.

Eileen will reach out to Dave Short and find out what they have for trees that would do well at the schools, and will also talk to Keith Schmitt at LSS.

Gwen will reach out to the Robinson Trustees to gauge their interest in purchasing and planting a tree at LSS and/or Swasey Parkway.

**Other**

Details about Peter Waltz's trees being distributed at LSS are still uncertain.

Unitil is purchasing 20 trees to plant on Holland Way to replace trees that were cut.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:45

**NEXT MEETING DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 3 AT 8:30AM**

Respectfully submitted by Gwen English on 4/09/2022

