

DRAFT MINUTES
Town of Exeter
EXETER TREE COMMITTEE
May 3, 2022

I. PRELIMINARIES:

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Kristen Murphy

II. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:35AM

III. OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes from April 5, 2022 were unanimously approved without changes.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

Eileen showed the committee members the new Growth Award plaque from Tree City, indicating that we've exceeded the standards required for Tree City USA.

She also shared with us some of the details of the work done by local arborists at Swasey Parkway on 4/29 in honor of Arbor Day. (Cornerstone Tree Care, Curtis Tree Care, Northeast Shade Tree and Piscataqua Landscaping and Tree Service.). The work included strengthening the iconic birch tree, aerating the ground around trees, pruning trees, and removing trees that were diseased. Eileen learned a lot from this project, and was inspired to consider putting a 'tree care for dummies' information piece online for the public.

Since Erika Wilson is a new member of the Tree Committee, Eileen took some time to summarize the details of the Champion Tree Hunt project. Kristen added that participants are to take pictures of two *existing* Champion trees, then nominate their own tree.

Eileen wondered if, after getting permission from a participant's family, we could enlarge a submission picture and post it online. She added that Sally Oxnard purchased ice cream coupons for the event, and told us that the pencils and tattoos that we'd hoped to purchase are sold out.

Kristen suggested that perhaps the current submissions could get the ice cream coupons, and then be in the lottery for the \$25.00 Parks and Recreation prize.

Eileen informed the group that all three Sweet Gum trees have been planted at Lincoln Street School, and that the school department is paying for these trees at a cost of \$288.00 per tree. Trees were provided by Stratham Circle Nursery.

According to Kristen, the payment for the tree ID plaques has been problematic. (The issue seems to be a company glitch and not ours). She also told the group that the plaques will have the Town of Exeter's shield on it. Gwen raised a question about the \$35.00 set-up charge, and Kristen informed that group that it is a one-time set-up fee for all the 'labels'. (20-23 labels).

Eileen met with the new NH Tree City USA coordinator, Liz McKinley (Community Forester) and asked her if she could provide us with giveaways for the event on May 14th. Ms. McKinley is in the process of visiting all Tree City towns in NH, but will see what she can do to provide us with for the Alewife Festival.

Sally Ward questioned whether we could position the Tree Ordinance in a document link on the Town's website. It might make it easier to find. Also, it was questioned whether the site could be set up so that we can add pictures.

Erika suggested that perhaps we should have a laminated copy of the ordinance at the library. Everyone agreed that would be a good idea, and Sally indicated that the library has a 3-ring binder where a copy of the ordinance could also be placed. Eileen thought it would be good to have copies of the ordinance at the Alewife festival. There was also a suggestion that a QR code be generated, and Kristen indicated that it isn't difficult to do that, and that she could take care of that.

ALEWIFE FESTIVAL:

1. Members will continue to search for appropriate tattoos to purchase before the festival.
2. Erika suggested purchasing silicone leaf-shaped 'cups' for making melted crayon leaves.
3. Kristen will also look for wooden leaf shapes
4. Gwen will provide a large poster-sized sheath for a photo display.
5. Various members will bring books to have at the Tree Committee table.
6. Greg Bisson is bringing a table, and Eileen will provide a table covering.
7. Eileen will continue to look for an additional Tree City flag or banner
8. We should be at the festival by 9:00.
9. At 10:30 we (the Tree Committee) will announce the winners of the tree hunt.

Eileen feels that at some point, it might be worthwhile to make up some packages of 'tree cards' to sell, and help raise awareness of trees!

Meeting concluded at approximately 9:40AM

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022 AT 8:30AM

Respectfully submitted by Gwen English on 5/08/2022