

DRAFT MINUTES

**Town of Exeter
EXETER TREE COMMITTEE
June 7, 2022**

I. PRELIMINARIES:

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Greg Bisson, Kristen Murphy

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

III. OLD BUSINESS: Minutes from May 3, 2022, were unanimously approved with one minor change.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

Chair Flockhart gave the group a recap of the events at the Alewife Festival held on May 14th at Founders Park in Exeter, and indicated that it was a success.

There was a brief discussion on what changes could be implemented in the future, including: inviting artists to participate, combining the Alewife Festival with another local event to draw more people, have more hands-on activities, have it more 'kid oriented', consider having it in the afternoon instead of in the morning, have a tighter schedule of events in a compressed time frame.

To generate more participants, and realize a more successful fundraising endeavor, it was suggested that paper raffle tickets could be sold by a willing 501(c) (3) organization.

Tonja Neve, the new principal at MSS, would like to have trees at the school. Eileen imagines that they could be planted in the lower left-hand corner of the playground/field, offering valuable shade to the children. Chair Flockhart has asked Dave Short about securing two Elms for this site. Rusty Lyster (Director of Facilities) has given the school the green light to do this planting. Eileen hopes that SAU 16 will pay for the trees. Tree diapers will keep them watered during the hot, dry months ahead. It is hoped that this project could be completed before the June 16 school closing, and definitely before the July 1st which is the end of the budget year. Greg Bisson will provide Eileen with Rusty's contact information. Dig safe has been contacted.

Kristen asked if these trees are native elms, but Eileen wasn't sure exactly what type of elm is being proposed for this site.

Kristen also suggested that we should keep track of the tree and labor costs, and donations.

Eileen will keep us posted as these plans unfold. She would like to keep this event somewhat simple, but may contact Garret Pray who works with Exeter TV and have them cover this event. (If a celebration doesn't occur this spring, we could do something in the fall.)

Kristen suggested that it would be fun to have a date of planting indicated on the new Main Street School trees.

Greg Bisson told the group that the planting of four trees at the Brickyard will happen in the fall. They will include a Princeton Elm, Pin Oak, and Red Sunset Maple.

Eileen has communicated with Kevin Breen and he would still like to do a tree walk. Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 4:00-5:00PM are best for him. The group felt that Friday the 15th or Friday the 22nd of July would work well. In talking about a possible location for the tree walk, Kristen suggested Henderson Swasey as that area has some great, giant trees near the parking lot.

Eileen then gave the group a rundown on the planting of the butterfly gardens at Lincoln Street School on 5/16/2022. All the plants were put in quickly before it stormed, and it appears that the gardens are doing well. The Green Team at LSS received grant money for these plants, so they'll be motivated to keep them watered and healthy through the summer.

She also met with Sarah Koff and Sarah Dewitt, both are part of the Green Team at MSS.

Sally Oxnard asked about the tree labels. Kristen said this has been a slow process, but that they are on their way! Sally Oxnard, Kristen and Jay will work together to coordinate the placement of the signs/labels.

Greg Bisson informed the group that the trees by the tennis courts need to be trimmed, as some branches are now hanging over the tennis courts.

The planting of small trees along Holland Way was also mentioned.

Gwen brought up a conversation she'd had with the chair of the Sustainability Committee, Chetana Paramar, about trees that were cut on Grove Street by Chetana's house, and it was suggested that Gwen ask Jay Perkins about the trees. Perhaps they were not in good health and needed to be removed? Perhaps Jay and Unutil can arrange for new plantings?

Eileen has invited the committee members to her house and garden on
Tuesday, July 19th at noon.

Meeting concluded at approximately 9:40AM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gwen English on June 13, 2022