

DRAFT MINUTES (6/13/2023)

Town of Exeter
EXETER TREE COMMITTEE
June 13, 2023

I. PRELIMINARIES:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Eileen Flockhart (Chairwoman), Dr. Steve Jones, Niko Papakonstantis (Selectboard rep), Deb Twombly, Sally Ward, Gwen English

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Bisson, Kirk Scamman

II. CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at 8:35 by Chair Flockhart

III. OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes from May 9, 2023 approved as written, with minor change.
(Item #8. Kevin Brown should be Kevin Breen)

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

Chair Flockhart summarized the tree planting event at Lincoln Street School made possible by the Enhancing Tree Canopy at Schools Grant through Tree City. (Grant was submitted by teachers Keith Schmitt and Ms. Pupino.) A sugar maple and a tulip tree were planted by a doorway at the back of the school. This was the first chance for students to roll up their sleeves and participate in the tree planting, and it was hugely successful! Bob Glowacky did a video which is on Exeter TV. We may be able to move it to our page on facebook. Perhaps it could also be put on the Exeter Community Forum.

Sally Oxnard arrived at 8:40

Eileen suggests moving our recognition of Greg Jordan to the month of July, and feature the tree planting event this month. Sally Ward will post some pictures and will send some to Kristen as well.

Niko indicated that the Selectboard would like an update on all that the Tree Committee has done, for example, tree plantings, placement of markers etc. We need to order more markers for the two new trees at LSS. Kirk will make sure that the markers get epoxied to the granite posts. The granite posts are 4' granite survey stakes that are cut in half. When buried in position there will be approximately 3" showing above ground.

It was decided that we would attend the Selectboard meeting on July 24th at 7:00PM. Eileen asked whether, in addition to speaking about the nuts and bolts of our tree work, we could ask the Selectboard for money/for a budget. Selectboard chair Papakonstantis was in favor of that. Gwen suggested that we mention Steve Jones's contribution of Elm trees to show that the public is also contributing funds to the tree planting mission.

Greg will provide the committee with an update on the health of all the trees, and will let us know if any need to be replaced. (i.e. the maples at Gilman Park). With this report, we can tell the Selectboard members "here is where we are, and here's where we'd like to go."

Sally Ward has compiled a list of trees and trees that have been marked. With the addition of the two new trees at LSS we will have 19.

Kirk told the committee that there will be two trees planted on Union Street. They typically go to Stratham Circle and ask Dave Short for recommendations on types of trees that would be suitable for specific locations.

Eileen commented on an enormous pine tree on Front Street before RR Avenue that is in tough shape and could be a safety danger. Thoughts are that it is probably on private property.

17-18 trees were planted on Holland way by the Town. NOTE: There is a distinction between Town planted trees and Tree Committee planted trees!

Deb Twombly suggested that we provide information to the Selectboard about the % of trees in Exeter, using the map and accompanying data. She will work with Kristen Murphy to get this in time for the 24th meeting. At the LSS tree planting event, A.J. Dupere commented on the amount of tree coverage around our schools compared to that at other schools. We're in better shape than most!

It was suggested that we could feature tree diapers for the month of August and explain why they are superior to gator bags for hydrating newly planted trees. Eileen has offered to write an article on this topic.

Eileen has spoken with Kevin Breen, and he still wants to do a tree walk at Riverwoods. Steve Jones offered that if we combine a tree walk with a larger event in Town, we might get more people to attend. The walk with Kevin Martin was very successful, but he also has his own 'group', so there's an immediate following with him! Kirk wondered if we could combine a walk with a Raynes barn event.

Steve will provide us with an update on the Liberty Elms. At this point, we're still confirmed to receive 15 elms over three years.

Deb gave us an update on the project at FUUSE (First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter) and the work that Elizabeth Dudley, landscape architect, has done for them. Deb also showed us, and highly recommends a book called *Mini-Forest Revolution: Using the Miyawaki Method to rapidly Rewild the World*, by Hanna Lewis. Some of the principles in this book are being used in the FUUSE gardens.

A quick re-cap of the materials needed for the Selectboard meeting:

1. Greg will report on the health of the trees
2. List of trees planted since 2019
3. List of trees we've labeled to educate the public.
4. Pictures of trees we've planted (Steve Jones will take photographs)
5. Deb and Kristen's report on current % of trees and what % we're aiming for.

Next meeting will be July 11th, 2023 at 8:30 unless otherwise noticed by Chairwoman Flockhart.

We will not have a meeting in August.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35AM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gwen English on June 16, 2023