



# TOWN OF EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

10 FRONT STREET • EXETER, NH • 03833-3792 • (603) 778-0591 • FAX 772-4709

[www.exeternh.gov](http://www.exeternh.gov)

## **PUBLIC NOTICE** **EXETER CONSERVATION COMMISSION's** **Subcommittee: Exeter Tree Committee**

The Exeter Tree Committee will meet in the Wheelwright Room, Exeter Town Offices  
at 10 Front Street, Exeter on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 8:30 A.M.

### Call to Order:

1. Introduction of Members Present
2. Public Comment

### Agenda Items

1. Review of proposed tree removal/trimming list from Unitil
2. Tree Label Recommendations (Sally/Gwen/Steve)
3. Update on Lincoln Street School Tree Removal
4. Tree Committee webpage improvements
5. Schedule and location for training sessions for Tree Survey
6. Other Business
7. New business

Next meeting date: July 8, 2025 8:30 am

*Eileen Flockhart, Chair*  
*Exeter Tree Committee*

Posted June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Exeter Town Website [www.exeternh.gov](http://www.exeternh.gov) and Exeter Town Offices

## Proposed Tree Labels

### Brickyard Park

Red Maple (label 1 of 4)

American Elm 'Herbie' (label 1 of 4)

### Swasey

1. Add label to Matick memorial tree. Red Maple. *Acer rubrum*
2. (second on our list but we decided not to label this one, Ash. Not in good shape
3. Granley memorial tree. Add label. Sugar Maple. *Acer saccharum*
4. Lang memorial tree. A tree form Hydrangea Panicle. Should we label this though not technically a tree? To be discussed at meeting.
5. Norway Maple. Has concrete post already.
6. Northern Red Oak
7. River Birch. *Betula nigra*. Some question about health of this tree (against fence on west side of Swasey). But it was a "champion tree" at some point so is of interest. Kevin Martin talked of this tree during his "big tree" walk in October 2022.
8. Pin Oak near gazebo. *Quercus palustris*.
9. American Elm 'Herbie'. Label middle one (3 planted at north end of Park). *Ulmus americana*.

Note: also replace the label that disappeared from the White Ash near sidewalk. Granite post is still there. *Fraxinus americana*.

### Town House Common (should check on identification of some of these. Ask Greg?)

1. Black Birch by parking lot with lots of lily of the valley under it. *Betula lenta*.
2. Norway Spruce across from Black Birch. *Picea abies*
3. Eastern Red Cedar. Close to parking lot, near Norway Spruce. *Juniperus virginiana*.
4. Sugar Maple surrounded by day lilies. *Acer saccharum*.
5. White Ash. *Fraxinus americana*.
6. Black Walnut corner of Front and Court. *Juglans nigra*
7. Sugar Maple by Historic District sign. *Acer saccharum*
8. Japanese Zelkova, several planted in a row along Court Street. (check identification). *Japanese zelkova*.
9. Crabapple. *Malus*.

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Town of Exeter

**TREE COMMITTEE**

DRAFT MINUTES FOR MAY 13, 2025

**I. PRELIMINARIES:**

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Kristen Murphy, Kirk Scamman

**II. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Flockhart called the meeting to order at 8:35AM

**III. OLD BUSINESS:** Minutes from April 8, 2025, approved without changes.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

Eileen gave a quick review of the Alewife Festival which was held in the Town Hall from 10:AM-1:PM on Saturday, May 10. All felt that it was a success in spite of the rain.

Eileen then reported to the committee members on the saga of the missing Sweet Gum Tree at Lincoln Street School. Upon discovering that the tree was gone and yet the granite post and label were still in place, she contacted Rusty Lyster to find out more about the tree's removal. Apparently, there was considerable damage done on and around the playground equipment and the school decided to install security cameras with the hope of catching the individuals responsible for the damage. The Sweet Gum tree blocked the needed view and was subsequently removed. (It was also said that the tree never leafed out, so perhaps it was not in good health, or was dead). There are 3" caliper Sweet Gums available at the Stratham Circle Nursery, and the School Department will pay for the replacement. We need to make a decision about where the tree will be planted. Eileen feels it is important that this be a group effort, and all need to take responsibility for the new tree's health. Kirk Scamman volunteered to be responsible for contacting Dig Safe and will also dig the hole for the new tree once a site has been selected.

Following this discussion, we agreed that we need to review our list of trees, and committee members will sign up to monitor them. (And we should assign that task to a member every time a new tree is planted.)

Gwen suggested that perhaps we could contact Keith Schmitt and Katy Pupino (Green Team teachers) and see if their group could monitor the health of the trees.

Kirk indicated that his office will be receiving two iPads in the next two week, and they will be available for DPW to use to update the condition of trees. They can update the site as they plant trees.

Eileen wondered if anyone knows where the Tree City stickers are that go on the wooden plaque that we received.

Eileen and Kristen worked on the web page and are making improvements to the website which has content but there is 'button space' for pictures and text. This is a work in progress!

Gwen asked about the rocks placed around the trees on the YMCA site. The rocks will absorb heat and ultimately that heat will also heat the roots of the trees. Deb Twombly said she would speak to someone at the Y about this and will encourage them to remove the rocks and replace them with non-dyed mulch.

Kirk was asked about the status of the water tank, and he indicated that it is still being worked on. DPW is short staffed!

Deb asked if we have money available to purchase tree diapers. We have \$20,000.00 but once we buy trees and cover costs of tree removals etc. the money will be spent quickly. (Deb will look into the cost of the tree diapers.)

Eileen reported that Stratham Circle Nursery is still holding trees for us (A lilac and a Cherokee Brave Dogwood), but we probably won't re-position the Herbie Elms that are at the library until fall. (September or October), therefore the lilac and the dogwood will not be planted until after the elms have been relocated.

Will get updates from Greg Bisson about the playground schedule. Kirk wonders if we want to get the trees in before summer camp starts, or, following Steve's advice, perhaps we should wait until fall when stresses of summer don't become challenging. Kirk and Greg will work all this out. (Perhaps we could do all the trees at the same time! Library and Recreation building!)

We then discussed the labeling of more trees at Town House Common, Swasey Parkway and Brickyard Park. Steve, Sally and Gwen have agreed to walk those sites

and try to determine where labels could be placed. (Sally says only two are needed at Brickyard Park.). Kirk says that Jay has the granite for posts.

Deb Twombly updated the committee on the progress of the FUUSE project. They have moved granite and are looking at a 3,000 square foot area for a mini forest with a path. (A meditation garden with a bench is also part of the project.) They are raising \$20,000. outside of the church budget to make all this happen. This is following the Akira Miyawaki (Miyawaki Method) plan for a self-sustaining ecosystem. Once this has been established, it will be a wonderful template for future mini forests in Exeter. (i.e. at the High School)

Eileen summarized the work done recently at Peter Waltz's house where committee members and others packaged up and labeled nearly 200 little Fraser Firs for Lincoln Street School students.

Kristen Murphy and Eileen introduced our guest, John Cerullo, a representative from NG Gilbert Utility Line Services. NG Gilbert is working with UNITIL in part to determine where hazard trees are located under or near utility lines. Mr. Cerullo attended our meeting as required to comply with our Tree Ordinance. There are four trees that exceed 20" caliper dimensions that need to be removed. He needs our approval before NG Gilbert can do any work. Steve Jones moved that we grant our approval for the removal of four specific trees, Sally Ward seconded his motion. All committee members voted in favor.

Kirk mentioned a large dead pine tree at the end of Garrison Lane. It will come down and will be left in place to rot.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40AM

**Next meeting date: June 10, 2025, at 8:30AM**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gwen English on May 17, 2025

# TREES COUNT!

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## HELP COUNT STREET TREES



**TRAINING DATES:**  
SAT 6/14 12:30  
WED 6/18 12:00  
WED 6/23 8:30 AM

**RSVP REQUIRED**  
**LOCATION TBD**



**SEEKING VOLUNTEERS**  
**TO HELP WITH OUR TREE INVENTORY!**

*Quick and Easy Data Collection - RSVP Today!*

*Kristen Murphy | 603-418-6452 | [kmurphy@exeternh.gov](mailto:kmurphy@exeternh.gov)*