MINUTES of the
City of Portsmouth
Trees and Public Greenery Committee Meeting
May 10, 2023

Members Present: Chairman Peter Loughlin ,Vice-Chair Richard Adams; Director of Public Works Peter Rice; City Arborist Maxwell Wiater; Assistant Mayor Joanna Kelley; Members Michael Griffin, Dennis Souto, Patricia Bagley, and Deborah Chag.

Members Excused: A J. Dupere.

Also Present: Scott Richardson, Eversource Representative; Mike Garrepy of Garrepy Planning Consultants; Sue Sterry, Co-Chair of the Cemetery Committee.

Chairman Loughlin called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

1. Acceptance of the Minutes of the April 19 meeting.

The April 19 minutes were unanimously **approved** as presented.

2. Tree Removal Requests

- **441 Richards Avenue –** 3 ash trees, homeowner requested, removal recommended by City. All three trees at this address show signs of EAB infestation.

Mr. Wiater said it was a cut-and-dry situation and that the trees all had signs of EAB infestation. Assistant Mayor Kelley said a lot of citizens were upset because of all the large trees being cut down. The committee discussed what communication methods could be used to let citizens know the reasons why the trees were being cut down.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Souto moved to recommend removal of the three ash trees, seconded by Ms. Bagley. The motion **passed** by unanimous vote, 7-0.*

- **179 Woodbury Avenue –** one ash, City request, removal recommended by City. Tree is showing signs of EAB infestation.

Mr. Wiater said the tree had the same condition as the previous ones discussed.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Souto moved to recommend removal of the ash tree, seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley. The motion **passed** by unanimous vote, 7-0.*

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- **216 Woodbury Avenue** – one plane tree, City request, removal recommended by City. This tree will be removed as part of a sidewalk installation project. This tree has a significant lean and is planted under utility lines. A new tree will be planted as a replacement.

Project Manager Mike Garrepy was present and said the tree was in the right-of-way of the proposed property development. He said they wanted to remove it, build the sidewalk, and then replace the tree. It was further discussed.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to recommend removal of the tree, seconded by Ms. Bagley. The motion **passed** by unanimous vote, 7-0.*

- **449 Ocean Road** – one ash, Eversource request, removal recommended by City. Tree is showing signs of EAB infestation.

Eversource representative Scott Richardson was present and said the tree showed signs of EAB infestation.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Griffin moved to recommend removal of the tree , seconded by Ms. Chag. The motion **passed** by unanimous vote, 7-0.*

- **Ocean Road and Patricia Drive** – one pine, Eversource request, removal recommended by City. There is a significant basal cavity.

Eversource Representative Scott Richardson said the tree had a significant basal cavity.

Chairman Loughlin asked for a motion. *Mr. Griffin moved to recommend removal of the tree, seconded by Mr. Souto. The motion **passed** by unanimous vote, 7-0.*

3. Tree Planting for the City's 400th Anniversary

Mr. Wiater reported the last of the 400 trees were planted on Arbor Day, and he thanked everyone for participating.

4. Portsmouth's Original Parks – Presentation by Vice-Chair Adams

Vice-Chair Adams gave a presentation on the history of a few of the city's oldest parks.

5. Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Sue Sterry, Co-Chair of the Cemetery Committee, was present to discuss the trees slated for removal in North Cemetery. Mr. Wiater said the trees weren't marked yet and that it would be further discussed at the next meeting. Ms. Sterry said she gave a tour of South Cemetery and that

someone suggested that the city might be eligible for grants and a national historic designation. It was further discussed.

At this point in the meeting, the committee left for a site walk at South Cemetery.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 10, 2023

The meeting was **adjourned** at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Breault
Trees and Public Greenery Committee Recording Secretary