

Town of Exeter
EXETER TREE COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES FOR 6/11/2024

I. PRELIMINARIES:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Eileen Flockhart (Chairwoman), Sally Oxnard, Sally Ward, Steve Jones, Deb Twombly, and Niko Papakonstantis as Select Board Rep

STAFF PRESENT: Kristen Murphy, Kirk Scamman, Jay Perkins, Dave Sharples

II. CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at 8:30AM in the Wheelwright Room

III. OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes from 5/07/2024 were approved as written. Motion to approve by Sally Oxnard, seconded by Eileen Flockhart.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- Dave Sharples, Town Planner presented the need to remove trees from the site of the future Police and Fire Substation lot to allow for boring to inform the site design. The committee recognized the need to remove trees and is interested in helping Dave to identify what trees may remain. A site walk was scheduled for 6/14 at 8:00 am for any member available to attend.
- Lincoln Street School planted 2 trees. A kousa dogwood and a serviceberry.
- Several Tree Committee members attended the Riverwoods selective harvest forestry demonstration walk. It was remarked that it was done so well you could barely tell a timber harvest occurred.
- Kirk reported that the crews added protective sleeves to the new plantings on Holland Way. Crews noted deer grazing on trees. Deb suggested the Town explore using a spray deterrent and recommended PlantSkyd. Kristen expressed concerns about the drainage infrastructure and proximity to the Town reservoir and Kirk expressed concerns that it may require a pesticide applicators license. Kristen will review the ingredient list and report back to Kirk.
- The condition of the recently planted elm trees was reported on. Swasey trees receive periodic inundation from brackish water. Steve inquired with the tree source and they said given their riverside compatibility, they are tolerant of

periodic flooding. The tree at the skate park looks to be in rough shape. Others look great.

- It was recommended to explore the purchase of 8 tree diapers to cover this year's plantings. Holland way trees do not need diapers as the drainage swale retains a fair amount of water.
- The August agenda will include a discussion of the remaining planting locations and species. Kristen and Kirk/Jay will walk potential sites, Kirk will have DigSafe review them and provide feedback in August to enable the group to make final decisions. It was suggested this year's priority should be in front of Citizens Bank on Water Street and Front Street near the railroad tracks. Kristen will email the committee the full list of sites proposed.
- Sally Oxnard reported she and Steve met with the High School eco club to talk about plantings. The plantings are on pause until September. The planting will require school board approval.
- Kristen discussed the plan for the street tree inventory. Kristen, Jay and Kirk reviewed the data that will be collected and Kristen will coordinate with Rockingham Planning Commission. Given their connection to Strafford Regional Planning Commission and access to someone skilled in the approach, Kristen believes a sole source justification is appropriate.
- The Tree Committee will target September 3rd with the 16th as a back up for Select Board presentation on next year's budget request.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Kristen Murphy