

FINAL

City of Lebanon
Tree Advisory Board

Minutes

Monday **June 6, 2022** at 5:30pm

City Hall Meeting Room #1 (next to the Council Chambers): [LebanonNH.gov/Live](https://lebanonnh.gov/Live)

MEMBERS PRESENT (7/7): Kathleen Corrigan, Charlie DePuy, Andrew Garthwaite, Kelsey Haigh, Susan Johnson, Mary Maxfield, Sarah Riley

MEMBERS ABSENT (0/7): None

STAFF PRESENT: Paul Coats (Director, Lebanon Parks and Recreation)

STAFF NOT PRESENT: Kristin Flythe (Recreation Director, Lebanon Parks and Recreation)

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1. CALL TO ORDER: Andrew Garthwaite called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm.
 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of our last two meetings (4/4/22 and 5/2/22) were corrected and approved.
 3. OLD BUSINESS:
 - a. **Urban Heat Island Group** (Charlie and Mary)
 - i. Charlie shared with us a map of temperatures he recorded during a walk on a hot day in May through his neighborhood near Colburn Park. Significantly there was a 13 degree range of temperatures recorded.
 - ii. Charlie is especially interested in the superior cooling effect of a group or grove of trees as opposed to that of a single tree.
 - iii. We have an upcoming meeting with LHS teacher John Tietjen to explore the involvement of students over the summer and possibly next year.
 - We are struggling with data organization and mapping. Maybe the students can help us in this area.
 - iv. We have upcoming meetings with Elizabeth Doran from UVM (Environmental and Engineering) who is currently mapping heat islands around the state of VT. We hope to get some support from her for developing good methodologies.
 - v. We have upcoming meetings with Emily Walton from Dartmouth (Sociology) whose students did a transportation equity study in Lebanon, so that we can gain some insights related to environmental justice connections and research methodologies for our work.
 - vi. Questions and answers followed.

- How about using bikers for data collection?
 - The Atlanta group does this.
 - Bike routes might be harder to shade or protect.
 - The Pedestrian Bike Advisory Committee (PBAC) might be interested in helping.
- Routes to test: from Dartmouth Coach to downtown Lebanon.
- Visual display of data important for effective sharing/presentations
- What about data collected on different days, i.e. hot days, cooler days? What would data scientists recommend? Kelsey suggested we might consider doing the same area ten times = “transects” on ten separate days.

b. Westboro Group (Kelsey, Paul, Susan)

- i. Focused on what’s available in the plants needed for this project.
 - Finding that it is hard to find small enough and young enough trees. Looking for 1-inch diameter trees.
 - “Conservation grade” = good and cheaper.
 - NH DES deadline is June 30 but OK to ask for extension
 - The Connecticut River Conservancy has a list of recommended species
 - A wetlands group could provide shrubs but not trees.
 - Maybe two ½-inch trees rather than one 1-inch tree
 - Drought is a problem for young trees in particular.
 - Maybe better to do in fall.
 - DES and Shoreline Protection Act would have info on how far apart shoreline trees should be. They’d also be the ones to okay fall plantings.
- ii. Volunteers who might be involved in plantings:
 - Hypertherm on weekdays
 - West Leb volunteers on weekends

c. Tree Warden Group (Andrew, Kathleen, Paul)

- i. We discussed the role of the tree warden in more detail than these minutes suggest.
- ii. It was suggested that we add to the “job” description that the tree warden would help us enforce our future tree ordinance.
 - AJ Dupere would help us here.
- iii. The city manager is concerned that our current draft of the tree warden’s job description has too many responsibilities for one volunteer.
 - Paul suggested that these responsibilities would be spread out over time. Some items wouldn’t be touched for a number of years.
 - Maybe in 2023 we could attach a small stipend.
- iv. Charlie Chapman, prospective tree warden, will meet with Paul this coming week.

d. Tree Ordinance Group (Kelsey, Sarah, Susan)

- i. Sarah: There is variability from town to town. Lebanon can do what Lebanon wants.
 - The City Council can hold public hearings; public can speak; Council can vote.
- ii. Susan and Sarah: If we want to affect how the Planning Board does their job, think about what we want the ordinance to do, what problems we want to solve.
- iii. Andrew: The tree warden can help with this. Report to the Planning Board about issues and that informs them.
 - (Aside) The Shoreline Protection Act is enforced by the state.
- iv. Kelsey: We'd like the tree ordinance to be considered in future site plan requirements. We'd like to educate the public about the value of trees in the infrastructure of the city of Lebanon.
- v. Andrew: What is the timeline for this?
 - Ultimately to city manager and then to deputy new guy.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Budget season:

- i. Paul shared that we're entering into budget season (July).
 - Best if the Tree Advisory Board explore during winter or pre-budget season what we'd like to do in the coming year.
 - E.g. \$5000 for tree planting project in coming year
 - We should look at grants
 - There are a number of groups that are private that can raise money.

b. Things needed for our **next meeting's agenda packet:**

- i. Susan will send Mary or Paul* a copy of the proposed tree ordinance to include in the agenda packet for our next meeting.
- ii. Kathleen will send Mary or Paul* a copy of the draft of the tree warden job description to include in the agenda packet for our next meeting.
- iii. (*Paul puts together the agenda packet, so he would be the preferred recipient, but of course Mary could attach any material to these minutes.)

c. We discussed **inviting people to future meetings:**

- i. AJ Dupere to our next meeting to help us with nuts and bolts of setting up a tree ordinance and establishing a relationship with our future tree warden.
 - Sarah will invite AJ.
- ii. Sarah will invite Charlie Chapman to attend all future meetings.
- iii. Nick Coates, deputy city manager for public works and head of DPW, to a future meeting so that we can establish a relationship. He doesn't start until July, so we should wait a bit.
- iv. To other future meetings, we plan to invite Heather from Liberty Utilities and Ron Rhodes (Conn River group)

5. NEXT MEETING: Monday 7/25/22 at 5:30pm (not 7/18/22 as previously scheduled).
Next meeting after that will be 9/12/22. No meeting is scheduled for August.
6. ADJOURNMENT: At 7:18pm, Susan moved to adjourn, and Kelsey seconded. All approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Maxfield
Recording Secretary