

City of Lebanon
Tree Advisory Board
Minutes, March 14, 2022
City Hall Meeting Room 2 and LebanonNH.gov/Live
5:30pm

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

MEMBERS ABSENT (0/7):

STAFF PRESENT: Paul Coats (Director, Lebanon Recreation Department)

OBSERVER PRESENT: Katrina Geurkink (may apply to be on the Tree
Advisory Board, and is currently with us as a participant
observer, here to help us envision our goals)

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1. CALL TO ORDER: Andrew Garthwaite called the meeting to order at about 5:35 pm.
 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: After the minutes of our regular January 3, 2022 meeting and special envisioning exercise February 7, 2022 were reviewed and some corrections made, a motion was made by Sarah to approve the edited minutes and unanimously approved.
 3. OLD BUSINESS:
 - a. Katrina led us in a **discussion of our visioning exercise**, asking that we individually identify 2-3 items we would like to be the focus of the Tree Advisory Board (TAB) for the next year.
 - i. Andrew opened with his proposed items (which we ultimately edited but provided key themes for our subsequent discussion):
 1. Planting trees
 2. Education—community science, engagement of children and homeowners
 3. Engagement with other city departments in an advisory and advocacy capacity
 4. Documentation—tree inventory
 5. Stewardship—management and management of trees
 - ii. Sarah:
 1. Inventory of trees
 2. Removing impervious surfaces

3. Educate ourselves (the TAB) on things such as soil needs, types of trees, mapping technology
- iii. Susan:
 1. Plant trees
 2. Choose one cemetery to prioritize
 3. Find volunteers to help us in our various forms of work
- iv. Kathleen:
 1. Plant trees, taking time to decide where and what types
- v. Kelsey:
 1. Inventory
 2. Decide where to plant trees
 3. Learn from the Planning Board/Department and DPW which trees are public and which are not.
 4. Manage the trees we have
- vi. Charlie:
 1. Document urban heat islands around the city
 2. Gather data about where the biggest needs are
 3. Eliminate residential hot spots
- vii. Mary:
 1. Document urban heat islands around the city.
 2. Apply current scientific understandings of tree needs and soil ecology to our decisions about where and how to plant and support trees.
 3. Apply the values and methods of environmental justice to our work.
- b. Katrina then led us in a discussion to identify **three immediate things that we can and should do**. Here is our list:
 - i. **Educate ourselves first.** We will form an online list (found in our group google folder and entitled, "What we need to LEARN".) Each of us can add to this list. This would include but not be limited to these topics:
 1. Tree ecology (soil, optimal habitat/species)
 2. Native tree species that would be adapted to different ecosystems around Lebanon
 3. Environmental justice—in what ways is this relevant to our work?
 4. Development of an advisory/advocacy relationship with the Planning Board
 - ii. **Current trees in Lebanon**
 1. Inventory (as reasonable)
 2. Learn from the Lebanon Planning Dept and DPW which trees are public.
 - iii. **Urban heat island** technology and planning for and execution of summer data collection by students and community volunteers.
 - iv.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Arbor Day 2022–Wednesday, April 29th.** Paul shared that two Arbor Day celebrations are scheduled for this day. The more official, public celebration will be held at noon at the North Westboro Park (across Bridge St from Stateline Sports). The other event is at the Lebanon Landfill, where some trees will be planted, but no celebrants are hoped for. Relevant to the celebration at the North Westboro Park:
 - i. Lebanon Rec Dept is in the midst of choosing the types of trees that will be planted. Relevant asides about the Leb Rec Dept and trees:
 1. Paul explained that Leb Rec focuses on community parks (ex. Smith Field) and looks forward to getting recommendations from the TAB.
 2. Leb Rec waters trees via water tanks on trucks. (Did all of us know this?!? Thank you, Leb Rec!!)
 3. Leb Rec has a certain amount of money for tree maintenance. Paul said that most goes to taking care of fallen trees.
 - ii. Susan asked if there are ways TAB could support Arbor Day. Some responses:
 1. Paul wondered if we could rally a bus of senior citizens to be there.
 2. Sarah wondered whether some of the riparian information could be shared since the North Westboro Park is close to the river.
 3. Susan suggested that the TAB commit to having a table at the 4/29 event with info on the TAB.
 4. Charlie suggested involving Kilton Library because they are in the neighborhood. Susan offered to invite them.
 5. Paul told us that the day is mostly ceremonial. The tree is planted ahead of time.
 - iii. Who are the Lebanon groups planting trees?
 1. Leb Rec Dept
 2. Libraries
 3. Schools
 4. DPW does plant some (e.g. trees by the rail trail tunnel), but Leb Rec maintains them.
- b. Brief discussion by Sarah of some exploratory work by the Conservation Commission and EDC (Economic Development Commission) and [downtown Lebanon Advisory Group) to look at **the two big parking lots (upper and lower) between the Mascoma River, CCBA, and city hall.**
 - i. They're having a discussion meeting Wednesday 3/16 at 4pm.
 - ii. This is city-owned property.
 - iii. Purpose of this exploratory work: to determine what's happening there and possibly re-develop. The people involved are leaning toward making it more of a green space.

- iv. Role of the TAB here is to make sure that the city doesn't forget the trees, heat islands, etc, as this is explored.
- c. **Tree Warden applicant status**
 - i. Paul reminded us that this is a volunteer position.
 - ii. Two applicants have come forward:
 - 1. Eric Agterbeg—not an arborist, has hydrology and horticultural background. Offered to be an interim warden as we look.
 - 2. Charlie Chapman—32 years experience with Davey trees and residential tree care.
 - iii. Though a couple of us suggested hiring both, Paul stated that we need one official tree warden who will serve as a member of our board.
 - iv. Katrina suggested looking up a job definition for tree wardens from a group such as Tree City, USA.
 - v. This position is ultimately a city manager appointment, but we the TAB have to set the criteria for the job definition. This should be an agenda item at our next meeting.
- 5. OTHER BUSINESS—General announcements of interest:
 - a. Sarah shared that a Wild About Lebanon “tree crawl” is planned by the Upper Valley Land Trust and Conservation Commission for the 1st Saturday in April (Friday 4/1). Purpose: slow walk to look at trees around town in places such as Colburn Park and the Greenway.
 - b. Tomorrow (Tuesday 3/15) at 10am behind Target is a repeat Wild About Lebanon walk and talk focusing on this area where our two major rivers converge.
- 6. NEXT MEETING: Monday 4/4/22 at 5:30pm.
- 7. ADJOURNMENT: At about 7:30pm, Andrew moved to adjourn, Susan seconded. All approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Maxfield
Recording Secretary