

City of Lebanon
Tree Advisory Board
Minutes, April 4, 2022 at 5:30pm
City Hall Meeting Room 2 and LebanonNH.gov/Live

MEMBERS PRESENT (6/7): Kathleen Corrigan, Charlie DuPuy, Andrew Garthwaite, Susan Johnson, Mary Maxfield, Sarah Riley

MEMBERS ABSENT (1/7): Kelsey Haigh

STAFF PRESENT: Present in person: Kristine Flythe (Recreation Program Director, Lebanon Recreation Department); present via teleconference: Paul Coates (Director of Lebanon Recreation Department)

OBSERVER NOT PRESENT: Katrina Geurkink (may apply to be on the Tree Advisory Board, a regular attendee of our meetings, instrumental in helping us envision our goals but not able to join us for this meeting.)

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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 March 14, 2022 meeting were reviewed and some corrections made, a motion was made by Sarah to approve the minutes. Unanimously approved.
 3. OLD BUSINESS:
 - a. **Tree warden**
 - i. Kathleen Corrigan researched this and recently emailed us documents on the topic of town tree wardens.
 - ii. Kathleen thinks we need to discuss the issue of authority of the tree warden.
 - In some towns, she found, there is quite a bit of adherence to what tree wardens recommend.
 - She wonders: To whom would our tree warden report? To us? To an independent agent? (e.g. Currently, for something like tree removal, the utilities don't have to go to the Planning Board; sometimes communication with the property owner is enough—unless it's a scenic road in which case the issue would be sent to the Planning Board and they cc the Conservation Commission. We wonder: Should we be on that list?)

- iii. We agreed that there's a problem. We don't have a tree ordinance. NH mandates that each town have a tree warden. Should we, the Lebanon Tree Board, determine who does tasks like trouble trees? How should we do this, in terms of chain of command? NH is very hit and miss. In Hartford, VT, for example, everything is written out.
 - We discussed inviting AJ Dupere (Urban Forester for NH Division of Forests and Lands) to come to our next meeting (5/2/22) to discuss the issue of tree warden and levels of authority. He has also expressed willingness to come and meet and look at our trees with us.
 - We also discussed inviting Heather Green (who works with Liberty Utilities in Lebanon) to a meeting to get some help on this.
 - iv. Charlie DePuy wondered whether having a tree ordinance would confer upon [us] authority to make decisions.
 - Paul Coates said yes, it would.
 - v. Should our tree warden, to be an *ex officio* member of the Lebanon Tree Board, be a paid or volunteer position?
 - Andrew suggested that we start with volunteer.
 - Kathleen said that in other towns, it is common for an already-employed town employee to take on the position of tree warden.
 - Sarah Riley expressed concern about whether Lebanon currently has a city employee with the kind of experience (ecology, conservation) that we want.
 - Susan Johnson wondered whether we need a job description before recruiting.
 - Paul replied yes so that we'd have criteria by which to evaluate candidates.
 - vi. Our plan of action:
 - Kathleen will draft a job description for our tree warden.
 - She will send that to the Rec Dept, and Paul will disseminate it from there.
 - Kathleen will invite AJ Dupere to our next meeting.
 - vii. Sarah Riley wondered whether we should invite our current two interested candidates to our next meeting for their thoughts as members of the public (along with Heather Green and AJ Dupere).
 - Paul has acknowledged receipt of their volunteer tree warden letters of interest.
 - It was suggested that perhaps we could invite them to Arbor Day events or tree crawl. (Sarah volunteered that Eric wouldn't be able to come.)
- b. Review of visioning goals**—our list of three immediate things we can and should do:

- i. Educate ourselves first. We have formed an online list (found in our group google folder and entitled, "[What we need to LEARN](#)".) Each of us can add to this list. We added to it at this meeting.
 - ii. Current trees in Lebanon
 - Inventory
 - Clarifying which are public
 - Susan will call DPW to see who we should talk to about this.
 - iii. Urban heat island technology and planning for and execution of summer data collection by students and community volunteers.
- c. Updates on the Urban Heat Islands project**
- i. Susan made a point of bringing up the topic of environmental justice as connected with urban heat islands with Devin Wilkie, Lebanon City Council member. Devin is working with Emily Walton, Dartmouth sociology professor on data collection in health disparities, food scarcity, poverty in Lebanon. We assume that there are important connections here.
 - Susan and Mary Maxfield will follow-up on this.
 - ii. Urban Heat Island (UHI) data collection update:
 - Charlie, Sarah, and Mary met last week with LHS teachers to describe our projected UHI project.
 - LHS teachers responded enthusiastically, telling us that they might be able to involve students in data collection and in tweaking the various technology problems (gaps in map, color-keys for temperature ranges)
 - Members of the Tree Board had some cool ideas for approaching our mapping problems.
- d. Updates on Arbor Day 2022**
- i. Date: Friday, April 29th
 - ii. There are three Arbor Day events scheduled.
 - The official public celebration will be held at noon at the North Westboro Park (across Bridge St from Stateline Sports).
 - Susan volunteered to staff an information table here.
 - Another event is at the Lebanon Landfill, where some [lilac bushes or trees] will be planted, but no celebrants are hoped for.
 - One tree will be planted at Hanover Street School. The actual species hasn't been chosen yet. (A couple of us suggested some species of oak, though size and habitat needs, include tolerance of compaction, must be part of the final decision.
- e. Parking lot update**
- i. Goal: They want to put green space there and revitalize the downtown riverfront.
 - ii. Sarah spoke with the Economic Development Commission (ED)C with her Conservation Commission hat on. She mentioned that they want to talk with Andrew, too.

- iii. She reported that the EDC has already developed some green space there, replacing impervious surfaces with trees.
 - iv. As mentioned at our meeting last month, the role of the TAB is to make sure that trees and heat islands are not forgotten.
 - v. Event dates TBA.OTHER BUSINESS—General announcements of interest:
 - f. 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.
 - g. 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.
4. NEW BUSINESS: None
5. NEXT MEETING: Monday 5/2/22 at 5:30pm.
6. ADJOURNMENT: At about 7:05pm, Charlie moved to adjourn, Susan seconded. All approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Maxfield
Recording Secretary