

FINAL

City of Lebanon
Tree Advisory Board
Minutes,
Monday **July 25, 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 (via zoom)

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)

SPECIAL GUESTS: Shaun Mulholland (Lebanon City Manager), AJ Dupere (NH Urban Forester) and Liz McKinley

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1. CALL TO ORDER: Andrew Garthwaite called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.
 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of our last meeting on 6/6/22 were corrected and approved.
 3. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **City Strategic Plan with City Manager Shaun Mulholland**

[Strategic Plan 062322](#)
[Fort Collins Strategic Plan](#)

- i. Shaun explained that the city's master plan is predominantly about land use whereas a strategic plan covers things not in the master plan.
 - ii. Shaun will be meeting with city boards through September, present to the City Council in December, then invite public input, and finally present a finalized version to the City Council. Goal: Incorporate strategic plan into city budget in May 2023.
 - iii. Kathleen asked what kind of authority the Strategic Plan would have. Shawn responded that he hopes that the City Council will see the Strategic Plan as public-informed. He hopes that it will have performance objectives that would allow the city to measure effectiveness.
 - iv. Andrew: Possible input from Tree Advisory Board: our "4 dreams" we

individually listed in group emails last night.

- v. We can respond individually.
- vi. Cut-off date of September 30, 2023 for input.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Consultation with AJ Dupere, NH Urban Forest, and Liz McKinley:** This was a far-ranging conversation that jumped all over the place.

Questions/answers/topics as they arose:

- i. The Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth has a nursery with over 100 types of trees.
- ii. AJ can help us with a lot of things, some free, and some not.
- iii. AJ can give us advice on types of trees
- iv. AJ can provide training to DPW staff, etc. He did it 5 years ago.
- v. Advice on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)
 - Drive around to identify trees that might be infected or at risk.
 - Ashes we know we want, we should assess whether we need to treat for EAB.
 - Liz is willing to come back here to identify trees that should be treated.
 - To treat EAB:
 - AJ and Liz specifically look for signs of woodpeckers, ripped bark. Pinholes not worth treating.
 - AJ has injection guns if we have a staff member (DPW?) who has applicator license. We could have two people: one with supervisory license and someone non-supervisory.
 - Lebanon has a no-pesticides order, so Chippers, for example, might be a source of EAB treatment chemicals.
 - We would drill holes into tree in the morning of a sunny day. Treatment would last 2 years.
 - Should be done while trees have leaves, i.e. from spring through leaf drop.
 - Get guidance from Cooperative Extension
- vi. Advice on setting up an inventory program. Some are free; some are costly. I Tree, for example, is good and free.
- vii. Set priorities for inventory. AJ recommends:
 - Do windshield surveys in pairs. Know the rights of way, but note in general which trees in an area have issues.
 - Start with trees in areas to which people have high access, e.g. parks, schools. These are public trees.
 - Use windshield inventory to identify stressed out trees. It doesn't have to be public trees.
 - AJ works with DPWs and looks at plow routes.

- City of Portsmouth inventoried 10,000 trees on city streets, marked on live GIS. Recorded: species, rough diameter, rough height.
 - Paul noted that Lebanon can use the Beehive system (not the same as Portsmouth's).
 - AJ suggested using windshield survey now to focus on ash or trees with stress (i.e. missing a lot of foliage).
 - Decisions: remove? Treat for EAB?
 - Windshield inventories would help us prioritize:
 - What do we have now?
 - What do we want to deal with?
- viii. Some opinions AJ and Susan shared after quick look at Colburn Park:
- No more maples (for the sake of diversity—there should be no more than 10% of any one species)
 - The elms should be treated for Dutch Elm Disease.
 - The ash trees (white ash and green ash) should be treated for Emerald Ash Borer.
 - No need to take down the Norway Maples. This species is invasive only in non-maintained areas. It is an invasive, though. Because it has heavy foliage and is allelopathic, it can inhibit other plant growth.
 - We need some medium aged trees in Colburn Park; we currently have mostly old.
 - Around kids, we need trees without low limbs.
 - Get the right tree in the right spot = help for tomorrow.
- ix. AJ and Liz could do soil tests. They assume that most of the soil used for city trees is fill. We could aerate. Some species do better with compacted soil, such as Pin Oak.
- x. Consideration when choosing species and planting trees: t
- How to plant and other considerations
 - Plowing and sidewalk space would compete with any trees.
 - Types of roots predominant in a particular species (taproot present? Lateral roots? Lateral roots good for water, not tipping over. Taproots are usually cut off when trees are transported)
 - Street trees often in boxes with concrete sides, so tree roots limited
 - Tree boxes should be as large as possible.
 - Tree guards can kill tree
 - What kind of dimensions-expectations do we want to set? Are there certain minimums? (e.g. 5'x5' with depth of 2', Somerville MA has 2x10
- xi. Our tree ordinance needs to be tightened up. Some big changes needed.
- Planting standards: See the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) website. There is no standardization.

- xii. Decide which trees are city trees. Concord, NH doesn't have city trees, but Portsmouth, NH does, and it is very expensive.
- xiii. Have some public PR to build enthusiasm. Have a public event, such as an Arbor Day give-away event so we can get a lot of volunteers.
- xiv. Build some PR for the urban heat island project and to involve the public.
- xv. Boston Lot is our town forest. Lead a nature walk through there.
- xvi. For Lebanon tree scaping, reach out to the ZBA regarding appropriate tree species and planting methods.
- xvii. Looking up types of trees to plant? AJ said the US Forest Service has some info, but this is more of an art.
- xviii. Consider applying for Tree City [Growth Award]. See criteria.
- xix. Portsmouth Tree Board–AJ is a member.
- xx. Concord Tree Board–Liz is a member.
- xxi. Talk about relationships between tree warden, arborist, commercial establishments like Fox, TaB.
 - We don't currently have a prospective tree warden.
 - We could have a tree advisor.
 - Problem of liability if a tree falls and person is a volunteer.
- xxii. Tree budget \$5,500. Stipend for tree warden \$2,500.
- xxiii. Town nursery: if we had our own, we'd have healthy trees long term.
- xxiv. OK to schedule lots of different meetings with AJ and Liz, some by zoom, some by visits.
- xxv. City of Lebanon has ~ 100 miles of roads. The city doesn't know what its rights of way are.
- xxvi. Good websites:
 - UNH Cooperative Extension
 - NH Bugs

5. NEXT MEETING: Monday 9/12/22 at 5:30pm No meeting is scheduled for August.

6. ADJOURNMENT: At 7:16pm, our meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Maxfield
Recording Secretary