

FINAL

City of Lebanon
Tree Advisory Board

Minutes, Monday **September 12, 2022** at 5:30pm
Lebanon Public Library in the Damren Room as well as on 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)

SPECIAL GUESTS: Kathy Bennett and Amber Davidson of Lebanon Towers

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1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at the usual time, though the recording secretary arrived a bit later.
 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of our last meeting on 7/25/22 were corrected and approved.
 3. NEW BUSINESS:
 - a. **Request for plantings to the Lebanon NH Tree Advisory Board (TAB) by Amber Davidson and Kathy Beckett, residents of Lebanon Towers, 97 Hanover Street.**
 - i. This request was presented to the TAB with the goal of achieving the cooling effect that could be afforded by more trees at the Towers and all residential properties of the Lebanon Housing Authority (LHA).
 - At present, there is very little shade on the Lebanon Towers property. The pine trees currently there are not healthy.
 - Charlie DePuy confirmed from this summer's urban heat island data that Lebanon Towers has exceptionally high temperatures relative to other neighborhoods in Lebanon.
 - ii. Ditha Alonso, director of the LHA: there is money for planting trees.
 - b. The Towers' relationship with the neighboring shopping plaza is important. Might this be an opportunity for collaboration between the two? The little triangle between the two might present the best opportunity for trees—and collaboration.
 - i. Andrew emphasized that these goals are ones that the TAB could support. The city of Lebanon could plant. Susan: This might be viewed as a test case for the TAB.
 - ii. A big tree could be introduced that would shade the parking lot and bus stop but not the Lebanon Towers building.

- iii. Kelsey and Susan volunteered to facilitate/mediate collaboration between the LHA and the plaza.
- iv. Sarah: Hanover Street is about to undergo renovation.
- v. Dig Safe would come out to check on the safety of the dig.
- vi. Might the budget reconciliation act money be applied here?

4. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Tree Warden posting

- i. Our tentative candidate, a retiree from Chippers, has decided to decline our offer of the position. He shared that the position looks like a full time position. However, he *did* offer to come to meetings to consult and give opinions.
- ii. Discussion—How to advertise the position with an amended description:
 - A prospective tree warden would only address a couple goals per year—not all of the items on our official mission statement or list of long term goals.
 - \$2500 per year
 - Here's the TAB charter.
 - These are our aspirations.
 - We want the person for their tree knowledge, not as a regulator/enforcer.
 - The TAB would be in charge of enforcing the planting regulations.
 - We would send our plans to the Planning Board to review for completeness.
 - Andrew: Could we get someone from the ZBA/planning department/Planning Board to meet with us to discuss all of this?
 - Paul: Maybe invite Tim Corwin to November meeting or special meeting?
 - We should advertise for 2-3 hours/week
 - Important that the warden be local?
- iii. There seems to be a tree warden and TAB-relevant new trend that when a tree is about to be cut or planted that the Tree Advisory Board is consulted. (Example of when this happened: the tree at the end of the rail trail at Spencer, example of when this didn't happen: the trees in front of Mascoma Savings Bank on Park Street)
- iv. Paul: This trend will ultimately become a more or less official policy after getting approved by the city manager, DPW.
- v. Paul will edit the warden description for our review and approval at our next meeting.

b. Urban Heat Island project—Charlie

- i. LHS student involvement temporarily suspended in mid-summer and will hopefully resume this fall.
- ii. Dartmouth students did a geography class project taking this summer's PocketLab data and applying it to QGIS mapping programs and providing

instructions for us so that we can carry this new approach on our own this fall and into next summer. The advantage of this new QGIS approach is that we can continue to collect Pocketlab temperatures around Lebanon neighborhoods, but the maps that we can now create would consolidate the current separate neighborhood maps and add many layers of information such as satellite data on tree cover, surface temperatures, and neighborhood characteristics including property values.

iii. Discussion:

- Andrew: Should we organize an LHS-based preliminary presentation to the city council this fall?
- Mary: The most realistic time for the LHS students would be in March after students have had time to develop and conduct and present their own studies to science fairs in February.
- Susan: If we want money from the Inflation Reduction Act, we should go sooner than that, perhaps in October.
- Sarah: If money is what we need, we don't have to wait for the quarterly meeting.
- Charlie: Using the services of CAPA (a national group that would descend on Lebanon and conduct a data blitz on one day) would cost \$12,000-15,000.
- Susan: If we use IRA money, we should use the money for trees, not CAPA.
- Andrew: We should approach the city manager about IRA money for trees.

c. TAB budget–Paul

- i. \$2500 for tree warden in 2023, increased to \$5000 for 2024
- ii. Traditionally \$4500 has been budgeted for tree work (pruning, etc., and dealing with hazard trees) but this year, we are asking \$5500.
 - The additional \$1000 would be devoted strictly for planting new trees.
 - According to Fox Trees, we need to take down some trees in Colburn Park.
 - Kelsey the Trails Association will deal with trees that come down on the rail trail but don't proactively deal with problem trees.
 - Andrew: We need to specify maintenance and planting in our budget.
 - Sarah and Kelsey: Maybe we could form a Friend of Lebanon Trees group. Perhaps we could have a list of tree aspirations, and interested people could come forward to support a tree.
- iii. The Leb Rec Dept budget will be presented to the City Council in November and voted on in December.
- iv. Paul starts his new budget for 2024 in June 2023.

d. West Lebanon Revitalization Group wants October 1 celebration day:

- i. Volunteers, cookout, work day

- ii. Focusing on
 - Westborough River Park,
 - Mascoma Greenway
 - Bridge Street Park
 - Main Street, West Lebanon
- iii. Kelsey has chosen/identified desirable specific trees for each of those areas.
- iv. Paul thinks we should look at more mature trees for the river site, not shrubs, in order to more effectively counter the many invasives that have popped up in that area such as multi floral rose and poison ivy.
- v. There are lots of volunteers.
- e. Tree planting lesson planned for Wednesday Oct 19 at 3pm with AJ Dupere and Liz McKinley**
 - i. This is with NH Urban Foresters, not the DPW.
 - ii. Maybe write this into the tree ordinance.
- f. Green Ash Survey status**
 - i. On the Trees Count app, we have compiled a fair amount of tree data to date.
 - ii. But—we haven't prioritized trees for action (treatment) yet because of questions about whether many of the trees are situated on public versus private land; we don't always know where the rights of way are. We can educate private owners but can only treat those on public land.
 - Certain trees, like the ones on the mall, have great public value.
 - Liz and AJ would prioritize the tallest trees, cut down the smaller ones, and replace them.
 - We could have a general announcement regarding affected trees on private land.
 - iii. Liz suggests that treatment be done either mid-September or May/June when leave are just coming in.
 - iv. The city has a policy not allowing pesticides/herbicides that are not organic.
 - v. We are authorized to get estimates from Fox for specific trees.

5. NEXT MEETING: Monday 11/7/22 at 5:30pm

6. ADJOURNMENT: At 7:22pm, Andrew moved that our meeting be adjourned. Kathleen seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
 Mary Maxfield
 Recording Secretary