

FINAL

City of Lebanon

Tree Advisory Board

Minutes, Monday, December 1, 2025, 5:30 pm

Meeting Room 1, City Hall or remote via virtual platform lebanonnh.gov/live

MEMBERS PRESENT (6/6): Kathleen Corrigan, Charlie DePuy, Andrew Garthwaite,
Kelsey Haigh, Susan Johnson, Sarah Riley

STAFF PRESENT (1/1) Alanna Cilbrith

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at about 5:30pm.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from 11/3/25 were approved after review
- III. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Discussion of Agenda Item E. Update on West Lebanon Main Street Trees

Rod Finley, Lebanon City Engineer, and Jim Lamontagne, Landscaper for the West Lebanon Main Street project joined the meeting by Zoom. Our approximately one-hour discussion was primarily based on the written comments sent by the TAB to Rod and Jay on 11/10/25 (see the end of his document for a copy of those comments; the full discussion can be found on the meeting video available on the City website).

Rod and Jim updated us on the status of the project and their process for closing down for the winter. Planting will now take place in the Spring.

In response to our concerns that DPW construction protocols and planting standards are being followed, Jim went into some detail about their plans for preparing the planting beds and pits for the trees.

We also drew attention to the City's Urban Tree Management Policy:
<https://portal.laserfiche.com/Portal/DocView.aspx?id=290799&repo=r-6dc9f0ea>

We discussed the need to consider the presence of overhead power lines on the West side of the street. The present plans show large trees being planted under power lines. Rod and Jim agreed that this needs to be fixed.

We discussed at length the choice of trees for in front of Kilton Library. It was agreed that the factors listed in our report need to be considered and that the Kilton librarian, Sean Fleming, should be included in the decision.

There was also discussion about whether the Landscape Architect should be brought in on the changes needed. Rod will look into this.

B. Update on the Grant

Sarah and Susan updated us on their continuing work on the job descriptions for hiring people to help implement the Grant.

The four jobs will be:

- 1) start contacting the property owners at AT bus stops or other private or commercial properties where we want to plant trees
- 2) do the tree inventory
- 3) write up stories about TAB activities and help draft signage and other public communications
- 4) arrange watering for the trees

Susan had a discussion with Rebecca Owens (Lebanon Assoc. Planner) and Dianna Armstrong (Lebanon Asset Manager). Rebecca is working to make sure that the job descriptions are in line with what's required by the City hiring policies.

C. Tree Planting on Private Property

There was further discussion of our continuing efforts to recruit property owners along public ways and at bus stops to allow the City to plant shade trees on their property.

We now have a list of 6 people for whom we've agreed to plant trees this spring. Additional notices will be placed on local listservs to recruit more property owners.

It has been confirmed that we don't need to require easements from people in order to plant trees on their property. But we will have every person sign an agreement, the exact wording of which can be flexible from person to person. Susan is working on a model agreement.

IV. **ADJOURNMENT:** at about 7pm

V. **NEXT MEETING:** January 5, 2026 at 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Corrigan

Attachment to Tree Advisory Board Minutes of 12/1/25 meeting

TAB comments on landscaping plans for the West Lebanon Main St. project; written 11/10/25

Based on:

- Plan dated 4/30/25 sent to TAB by Rod Finley on 10/21/25
- 11/7/25 site visit by TAB members Sarah Riley, Charlie DePuy & Kathleen Corrigan
- previous discussions within TAB and with City officials and others

General comment on South end of the street

Is the lack of trees in this area is due to planned redevelopment of the city-owned lots and work on the 12A dry bridge?

Trees and overhead wires

Is due consideration being given to how the added trees will be impacted by the overhead wires? We want to avoid the necessity for drastic, unsightly pruning by the power company down the road.

We note that the overhead wires on the west side of the street, which are marked on the plan, seem to be in conflict with a number of the tall trees in the landscape plan. Some specifics:

The planned Acer freemanii Sienna in front of 57 Main St seems to be crowded not only by the overhead wires but also by the existing large tree right behind it in the property's front yard (the icon on the drawing does not accurately reflect the existing tree's canopy dimensions). Unclear if you are really planning for there to be two trees there?

The GT (Locust) across the street from the Kilton bus stop has overhead wires in 3 directions (N-S-E).

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Adherence to DPW construction protocols and planting standards for protecting existing trees and planting new trees

Appendices 2 and 3 of the Lebanon Tree Policy DPW-501 lay out the protocols for site preparation, planting, and care of existing trees during construction. We want to make sure all these procedures are being followed. The standards being followed should be shown on the landscape plans. (Perhaps they're on other sheets we didn't receive).

What's the material going into the tree wells for planting? -- it looks like a lot of gravel at this point.

Here's a link to the policy in case the landscapers need it:

<https://portal.laserfiche.com/Portal/DocView.aspx?id=290799&repo=r-6dc9f0ea>

One example of protection for existing trees:

The crabapple on the city-owned parcel at the corner of Church St West needs protection. The City's tree policy DPW-501 section 5.4 and Appendix 3 outlines the protections it should be getting. At present there is a lot of heavy material piled around the tree.

TREES FOR KILTON LIBRARY

There's been a lot of discussion on this, and there are many factors to be considered. (see email exchanges among Rod Finley (planning), Kelsey Haigh(TAB), VHB landscape Architects, Sean Fleming (Kilton Lib.)

Some of the considerations:

Bus stop needs (this is one of the busiest AT bus stops in the city):

- A lot of space for people to stand (very limited room in and around the bus shelter itself)
- Shade for the people waiting for the bus (are there enough trees planned? What about the area around the front entrance where a lot of people gather?)

Library concerns:

- Preventing significant dropping of leaves and debris onto the backward-sloping roof because of the time-consuming – and expensive - process of removing them.
- If possible, shading for their west-facing windows

Environmental and tree health concerns:

- Preference for native species
- Must be tough, salt tolerant and compaction tolerant
- Since this is such a heavily trafficked area, there needs to be extra protection for the newly-planted trees

So, we need trees that:

Will survive in a tough spot

Are native or at least very well suited to our environment

will provide significant shade,

do not branch out so low that people can't stand under them

do not branch out so low so that they grow into the ground floor of the building

do not arch too much over the library and drop a lot of debris on the roof

do not drop too much fruit and/or nuts that could be a hazard or inconvenience for pedestrians

If we go for a taller variety, it should have a somewhat pyramidal form so that, when mature, branches do not hang over the library roof too much

Could be pruned/trained to attain the preferred shape

Possibilities/suggestions that have been made:

Gymnocladus dioicus (Kentucky Coffeetree) Sean was concerned about this branching over the library too much – is this still a possibility?

Cercis canadensis (Redbud) has been suggested but apparently is not really salt tolerant, which is problematic for our site.

Ostrya virginiana (Hophornbeam)

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/plant/Ostrya-virginiana> - A smaller tree, native and good street tree; not messy

Crabapples – something like Malus Sutyzam, Sugar Tyme; prefer not to have a purple leaved variety

Ginkgos – either Sentinel or Autumn Gold. These are not native, but very tough and would probably do well. Sentinel has the advantage of being narrow, but might be too tall in scale

Swamp White Oak – Quercus bicolor – maybe too large for this site.