

Draft Meeting Minutes

Montpelier Tree Board July 10, 2025 meeting 5:30-6:30PM

Attending: Sarah Hoffmeier, John Snell, Nancy Stone, Linda Young, Joseph Ferris (City Arborist)

In Shawn's absence Sarah gave an acknowledgement of those that had come before us.

The June 2025 minutes were approved.

No public attending for comments.

Parks Dept update from Joseph

Street Trees:

- the parks crew finished treating many ash trees for EAB and have been advising with the DPW on the preservation of many downtown trees.
- there is one treated ash at the high school which is showing signs of EAB.
- Joseph and crew will be pruning in front of Bear Pond Books as a large excavator will need clearance.
- In re the state street project, in addition to the gingko and freeman maple that were removed, the linden just up the street was damaged during construction and has been removed. The team had hope to replace some of these with stockholm method plantings (since the pavement is already dug up), but decided against due to limited capacity, and also the need of the merchants to get the street put back together asap at this point. A good time to revisit this may be as part of the anticipated future rialto bridge work.
- Noted that pretty much all the freeman maples are experiencing frost cracks. They seem to be thriving despite this, but they don't look as nice. Should revisit where we're planting these. And/or consider some kind of protection (e.g. paint?)
- Tree surround benches have arrived and are in place! One at corner of School and Main, and one on Main in front of Mad Taco.

Parks:

- Construction of the new connector trail through Hubbard Park is making good progress. Parks team has been involved in removing trees in the trail corridor.
- The new privy for Hubbard Park had its foundation poured and is awaiting the building structure which will be brought in and placed via crane on July 21st. The project unfortunately does not have enough funds to complete the composting system, so for now will just be a building (attending tree board members suggested fundraising to finish the project).

Finances

- John Snell noted our Tree Board funds from the Community Fund will be transferred to the City's Finance Dept.
- We have a healthy balance (between donations and legacy fund from Ken Liberto) and can use it to buy more trees if needed, but also consider keeping a reserve so that if opportunities arise for bigger projects we might be able to help with those (e.g. if unplanned street maintenance reveals an opportunity to replant a street tree using the Stockholm method).

Other News

- John Snell updated on how well the VCFA now Greenway Institute trees are doing. Joseph commented that volunteers from VT Urban and Community Forestry helped to prune those GI trees and work in the nursery.
- Summer Street Park: Linda reported that Alec is hoping the Parks crew can remove the marked crab apples and the struggling yews this month
- Tree Board would like to purchase another round of T-shirts from New Duds. Joseph said the Tree Board shirts were a favorite among Parks staff. John still has a few small sized, white shirts he will bring next meeting.
- Sarah suggested that if Tree Board members see oak trees planted in previous years that are over 5' tall, they can remove the cages as it is not believed that deer will browse on this species – swamp white oak, bur oak, etc.

Next meeting: August 7th, 2025 5:30-6:30pm in City Hall Memorial Room