

Tree Board Meeting Minutes for September 4, 2025 [Revised]

Attending: Sarah, John S, Linda, Nancy, Shawn, John A (Minutes Recorder)

Pre-Meeting Activities: John S brought in some tree branches to quiz the Board members. Oaks, hazelnut, witch hazel and catalpa were in the group. Nancy shared a website of artistic creations by David Bird who fashions little figures (Becorns) out of acorns.

Acknowledgement: Shawn led us in a review of some of the Abenaki names we had learned in previously including *abazi* (tree), *maskwamozi* (paper birch), and *kokokhoakw* (balsam fir) which is a favorite nesting tree for the barred owl (kokokhas). We also learned a new word, *koa* (white pine). Coos County in New Hampshire derives its name from that Abenaki word.

August Minutes: They were approved without objection.

Comments from the Public: No members of the public were present.

Remembering Worth: We shared memories of Worth who was a special person and valued member of the Tree Board. He had a crabapple tree that he liked to visit and also had oak and maple tattoos on his wrist. We discussed planting some trees along the road on Bailey Avenue near where he lived.

Events Upcoming:

Winooski River Cleanup - this Saturday, September 6th, 8:30 a.m.

North Branch Nature Center - Tree Tales (talking about trees) November 5th. John S will share the e-mail received from Elise Schadler (VT Urban and Community Forestry)

Invasives Removal – Sarah mentioned that there is a great deal of barberry along both sides of the new access trail to Hubbard Park (Windham Drive access point). The removal of these plants requires someone to organize workdays.

Nursery Maintenance – Building on the work done last August 26th, an additional nursery workday (2 hours) will be scheduled soon.

Fall Tree Plantings – Sarah will lead this effort again which will involve contacting digsafe and the installation of deer-proof cages. Trees planted in the Spring which did not survive will be replaced. Planting locations discussed were as follows:

5 Center Street

1 Parkside Drive

62 Barre Street

Behind the TD Bank Building

98 Terrace

43 Terrace (John A will check with Kathryn Davis)

Nancy noted that her neighborhood, Toytown, is overlooked as far as tree plantings are concerned. We encouraged her to find potential tree planting locations there.

Linda will check with the folks at 18 Summer about their plans for the Winter St side of their house.

We will need a copy of the tree nursery inventory or create one if it does not currently exist.

See also Neighborhood Tree Survey and Maintenance notes below.

T-Shirts – We discussed the purchase of 36 additional shirts (at \$10.25 each) to have a supply for tree board members and volunteers. Sarah will order medium and large sizes.

Parks and Trees: No representatives were able to attend. Sarah mentioned that she had been told Parkapalooza was a success; in addition, during the discussion of trees along State Street we learned that the Rialto Bridge will be replaced in 5 years. This will provide an opportunity for the addition of trees. John S noted that the City Council will be discussing the bridge removal at their October 8, 2025 meeting. Shawn mentioned that testing for fecal coliform bacteria in the North Branch seemed to point to pigeons that nest under the bridge although illegal direct discharges of sewage from a building cannot be ruled out because access to some building systems was not granted for dye testing. As an aside, Shawn mentioned that pigeons were originally domesticated in Turkey for their meat so are not native to North America. They also need to live near people.

Treasury Report – John S reported that Alec is dealing with the transfer of Tree Board Funds to the City and has assured the Tree Board that the funds will rollover from year to year. We approved the purchase of two 100 foot water hoses for watering the trees along State, Main and East State Streets downtown.

Summer Street Park: Linda reported that the three struggling crabapples were successfully removed, and plans are underway to hopefully get some replacement trees in the ground this fall in anticipation of eventual loss of the Norway maples. Excavation revealed an old roadbed in front of 12 Summer, but there is still workable soil behind that with enough room to plant. The Park was mentioned as a possible location for memorial trees for Worth and Ken Liberto.

Neighborhood Tree Survey and Maintenance – The trees planted in the Meadows and also in Park West neighborhoods were checked on August 30th and 31st. Dying (or dead) trees were noted at 19 Pearl and at the corner of Spring and Elm as well as a Serviceberry and a Red Maple at Deerfield Drive. These trees will be replaced this Fall. Given the number of trees we have planted, Sarah noted that the survival rate is quite good.

Other Items:

Riparian Plantings near Windham Drive access bridge – Sarah will check with Joseph regarding this future activity.

New Student Member – John S announced that Isla Robeck has expressed interest in joining the Tree Board. Those present were enthusiastic about this news and spoke in favor of encouraging her to get her application form submitted.

Meeting with Patrick Healy (Green Mountain Cemetery) – scheduled for September 17th. Nancy and John S will attend.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.