

Montpelier Tree Board Meeting

Thursday, March 5, 2026 meeting 5:30-6:30PM (City Hall)

Attending: John S., Joseph, Linda, Steve, Nancy, Alec, John A (recorder)

Note: Our new City Manager, Kelly McNicholas Kury, stopped by briefly to say hello.

- **A moment to remember our longtime volunteer Ken Liberto (John S)**

Ken, who passed away two years ago, was a great supporter of the Tree Board and usually had some great public comments to share. His favorite trees were the balsam fir and catalpa. He generously left us \$10,000 for our tree work and also funded the installation of two benches along the bike path (yet to be installed). We certainly miss him and his sense of humor.

- **Acknowledgement of the land we are on and those who came before – Abenaki tree related vocabulary**

In Shawn's absence John A shared the Abenaki words for basswood (wigbimizi), ash (mahlawks) and white oak (watsilmezi) and challenged the group to remember these for the next meeting in April.

- **Approval of February 19 2026 minutes (Approved)**
- **Comments from the public – None as no one from the public was in attendance.**
- **Parks and Trees activities (Joseph)**

Fairly quiet at the Park since our last meeting two weeks ago and staff are beginning to return from vacations. Usual trail maintenance and grooming with the snowmobile during the period. Joseph pruned pear trees on St Paul Street as well as an apple at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Joseph continuing work to finalize the tree well design for the State Street construction with VHB. James is doing the drawings for East State Street tree wells. Regarding the planters in front of the previous Post Office, it may not be a good time to take them all as negotiations regarding the building are ongoing. However, the group consensus was that it may be ok to move one or two to new locations yet to be determined.

- **Pruning workshop on river path**

Joseph would like to conduct the workshop during working hours and also has contacted Tom Sabo at MHS to see if students would be interested in attending. Joseph will follow-up with a date/time in the near future.

- **Spring tree planting locations updates**

John S has five locations and requested that the members search out more. John A reported that the owner of the property at the corner of Terrace and Jordan may be away teaching in Missouri at the present time.

- **Possible casualty corner of Spring St. and Elm St. (Linda)**

The tree was apparently damaged due to burial by snow. The cage surrounding it has been smashed. It may have survived. Linda asked one of the building tenants to contact the building manager about asking their plow person to give the new trees some berth going forward.

- **Greenlight Real Estate on Barre Street has approached Parks with a request to remove trees there blocking their signage. Pruning would probably be a sufficient remedy.**
- **Discussion of proposals for Country Club Road**

Instead of advocating any one of the proposals, the Board decided to list what it would like to see in the selected proposal. These wishes include:

Retain the tree nursery in its present location or move it at the expense of the developer after providing a cost/benefit analysis. The recreation area should remain intact.

Accepted standards for tree plantings must be followed as well as providing for regular maintenance of privately owned trees afterwards. The City will maintain trees along city-owned avenues.

A variety of native species should be planted with input from the Parks Department and the Tree Board.

Stormwater management must be an integral part of the design.

Retain the large trees currently at the Golf Course.

Minimize the amount of pavement and impervious surfaces.

John S will summarize the points discussed at the meeting for submittal to the City constituting the comments on the proposals by the Tree Board.

- **Treasury Report (John S)**

2026 Budget (update)

No progress on moving funds – waiting for the hiring of a new Finance Director. There were 21 applications received for the position with 11 forwarded to the City Council for consideration.

Alec reported that the City budget passed easily and there is \$50,000 in the Capital budget for downtown trees to be planted in the Spring of 2027.

- *Cemetery Update and 2026 Plans (John S and Nancy)*

Nothing new to report.

- *Calendar:*

- *Upcoming events*

- *VT Woodlands Conference April 11 8-4pm @ VT State University, Randolph*

- *Open Meeting Law Webinars through VLCT (3/18 – two sessions)*

- *Other business – none*

Next meeting: April 2, 2026 5:30-6:30pm in City Hall