

Montpelier Tree Board  
Draft Minutes  
July 11, 2019

Members attending: Steve Bailey, Sarah Hoffmeier, Shawn White, James Findlay-Shirras, John Snell

Public attending: Adam McCullough, Jac Huettenmoser, Ellen Doyle

- Agenda approved
- June minutes approved
- No comments from the public
- Old Business:

- Review of downtown tree planting: John thanked the Parks & Trees crew for the fine job of planting six new trees downtown. He also acknowledged James for facilitating the donation of three of the trees and a substantial discount on three more, all from Greenhaven Nursery. The purchased trees were paid for from a grant to the Tree Board from the Montpelier Community Foundation to help blunt the impact of EAB on the city.

John Snell reported that one of the new honey locust on East State Street had showed root issues at planting and is now showing stress. All agreed we would keep an eye on the tree.

- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB): John Akielaszek was unable to attend but submitted a report that 98% of the ash re-inventory was complete. That work caused 23 trees to be flagged for further investigation, which, when accomplished, showed no further infestation; he also had checked all but two traps, none of which showed EAB.

John Snell mentioned an article in the current issue of Northern Woodlands referencing a scientific paper from Michigan that indicated death rates of white ash may not be as high as previously reported.

- Jac and Adam reported the Parks and Trees Department has been doing invasives management along the North Branch as well as mowing at the nursery.

Adam reported that all the new trees around the city have been mulched but not yet tagged. The nursery trees also still need to be tagged.

- John thanked all for the fine participation in July 3rd parade.

- John also thanked John Akielaszek for organizing the goodbye dinner for Jeff Schuman

- Update on watering downtown: Watering downtown trees continues to happen once or twice each week. Two teams are now working, one for State/East State and one for Main. Ellen said it takes her 1.5 hours to do the State/East State route. The new map of water sources and a new set of hoses have been helpful.

- New Business

- John again mentioned that we need to consider some sort of watering system at nursery as we now have many young trees vulnerable to drought. Several questions and issues were raised but no obvious solution was proposed. John said he would speak with NBNC about running a line from their well, would again speak

with the community garden folks about how we might use their system and would speak with John Akielaszek to see what he knew about using river water.

- John mentioned that Geoff Beyer said the fence needs replacement at nursery and he'd like to charge some of the cost to the Tree Board budget. No further details at this time.

- The topic of how trees help dry soil was discussed. Shawn said she'd heard of several instances lately where people wanted to cut trees down in order to dry out their property and/or basements; in fact, she suggested, this will usually cause more water to accumulate. All agreed we need to do some public education about this issue and look for sites where this particular value of trees can be demonstrated.

- Sarah mentioned that a "rain garden" will be installed at VSECU August 12-16 and all are welcome to help with it.

- Workdays: TBD, activities needing to be done: downtown watering, nursery mulching and weeding, sign/sidewalk pruning, phragmites cutting, labeling trees and staking trees, John will notify Board and volunteers about times and tasks.