

**Barre City Tree Stewardship Committee - Meeting Minutes
Special Meeting (Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Alumni Hall)
September 23, 2021 at 5:30 pm-6:30pm
Hybrid (Online and In-person)**

Google Meet joining info:

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/nfj-exmz-qkr>

Or dial: (US) +1 334-409-1254 PIN: 975 197 963#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/nfj-exmz-qkr?pin=8705922020613>

Committee Members present: Amanda Garland, Amy Galford, Conor Teal, Nate Ebert
(Online)

City Staff Present: None

Guests: None

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Changes to Agenda

Amanda called the meeting to order at 5:44 pm. Technical difficulties delayed meeting start time.

Amanda asked the Committee if there were any changes to the Agenda. None from the committee. Amanda added a new agenda item to start with: Review Tree Ordinance.

Amanda: City Manager asked the Committee to present recommendations for updating the Tree Ordinance to the City Council by Oct. 19, 2021. She asked the Committee to review the current ordinance and return with comments to the next regular meeting, Oct 13, 2021. The Committee will then discuss the potential changes and decide whether further time is needed to make a recommendation.

Action Item #1: Committee will review the current Tree Ordinance and create suggestions for amendments.

Amy: Recommended confirming that any updated State Laws will apply to the Committee's work on the ordinance update as well as for the Tree Warden position.

Amanda: Agreed that further guidance on how to craft an updated ordinance is needed and will contact Jeff Bergeron to get information on this.

Amy: Offered to make an editable document of the current ordinance and so Committee can edit together.

2. Tree Nursery Updates and Projects

Amanda: The only trees getting ordered at this time are from 350VT, who offered to pay for new tree starts, however due to a shipping delay they had to change the tree order. The Barre City Tree Nursery will now receive 50 free trees and are being shipped soon. The species that the City will get are not necessarily ideal for street trees, but instead better placed in more open spaces. Examples of trees included: Pure American Chestnut, Black Walnut, Hazelnut, Mulberry, Black Willow, Button Bush, Red Maple.

Amanda will let the Committee know when they are delivered.

Amanda's students have adopted this project of preparing more trees at the Nursery, with the intention of more trenches dug, soil laid in, and mulch spread around. They'll plant the trees once they arrive to the nursery. Some trees may not survive the trip, and there's a chance a few from the first planting as well. Any starts that didn't make it, will be replaced with the new offerings coming in.

No updates on construction of the water tower as of yet. However, she said her students would like to present designs to the Committee to help decide features for the overall product.

3. Main Street Trees and Tree Guards Update

Amanda: Confirmation of the Committee's budget is needed from the City Staff in order to get an estimate on how many trees guards the Committee can afford to build. Will reach out to Jeff Bergeron for an update to the committee on the tree guard status. Will try to get a timeline on getting a tree guard sample built and tested. The Committee unanimously agrees that no new Main Street trees should be planted until they are protected by tree guards.

The Committee discussed what needs do the current trees require before the winter, including asking when mulching would be available and how to get it ordered.

Nate: Believes that mulching can happen just about anytime over the next month or so. Recommends that Jeff make the decision on how to get mulch delivered to the trees for spreading and whether the City needs to contract out the mulching of the street trees.

The Committee agreed that this process occurred last year and leaving the decision with the City Staff to decide on contracting out the mulching would be worthwhile.

Action Item #2: Jeff will update the Committee on tree guards status and decide when and how to get mulch delivered to the Main Street trees.

4. 350VT Tree Donation Update

Amanda: All the newest information on this was said in the Tree Nursery Updates agenda item.

5. Committee Webpage Update

Amy: Talked to City Staff last Friday to show which documents/links/resources that the Committee would like updated and added to its City webpage. Provided copy of edits to be posted. Also recommends double-checking that the recently updated Mission Statement will be included on the webpage. Amy showed the Committee layout designs for the new resource information.

Amanda: Made a motion to add the committee webpage edits/resource links gathered by Amy to be posted on the city webpage. Conor seconded. Three in favor, Nate was absent (left early from meeting). Motion passed.

Action Item #3: Committee will confirm with City Staff on how to get new resources added to the Committee's webpage.

6. EAB Trap Status

Amanda: Reported that the Emerald Ash Borer traps were not installed this year; the window of time to install was too specific and was unavailable during that time to make it happen. The traps won't expire any time soon, so will reschedule for next year.

7. Draft October Agenda

Committee discussed the potential agenda items and decided on the following:

1. Call to Order and Changes to Agenda
2. Committee Webpage Update
3. Tree Ordinance Amendment & City Council Meeting Preparation
4. Main Street Trees and Tree Guards Update
5. Tree Nursery Updates
6. Draft November Agenda
7. Adjourn

8. Adjourn

Amanda made a motion to adjourn. Amy seconded. Committee adjourned at 6:30 pm.

The Tree Stewardship Committee will have its next regular meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2021.

Committee Webpage:

<https://www.barrecity.org/tree-stewardship-committee.html>