

**Town of Belgrade Tree Committee
January 15, 2008**

A meeting of the Belgrade Tree Committee was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, at the Belgrade Town Office. The meeting was called to order at 5:45 pm by Acting Chairman, Sue Gawler.

Ex officio members present: tish carr, Belgrade Tree Warden
Carl Yeaton, Belgrade Cemetery Committee

Committee members present:	Committee members absent:
Norma Blazer	John Blasenak
Sue Gawler	Doug Wood
Loyce Hayslett	
Phil Sprague	
Kristie Wood	

Nine voting members are authorized.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of December 18, 2007, were approved as corrected.

Quorum

Town Manager Dennis Keschl recently stated in an e-mail that five members of the Tree Committee constitute a quorum. It is true that the committee initially set a quorum at five members (April 17, 2006). On May 15, 2007, the Tree Committee voted to change its quorum requirement to four with the following provision:

“Four voting members shall constitute a quorum, and a meeting may proceed. When a quorum has assembled for a meeting and a vote is required, a majority of the voting members present shall be sufficient to decide the issue in question; however, in the event of a tie vote, the question at issue shall be tabled until the next meeting.”

Sue Gawler will discuss this decision with the Town Manager to determine whether additional action is required to formally change the committee’s quorum requirement to four members.

Term Length – Tree Committee Members

On April 17, 2006, the Tree Committee voted to set initial terms at one, two, or three years to establish staggered terms. It is understood that term length for each member (after the initial term) is three years. For the record, we have learned that the town limits a person’s membership on a given town committee to two consecutive terms. After two consecutive terms, the committee member must take one year off before serving again on the same committee. Therefore, for the original members, initial term length and end of second term are as follows:

Length of Initial Term	Initial Service Date	End Date Initial Term	Begin Date Second Term	End Date Second Term	Mandatory Year Apart	Re-eligibility Date
One year	04/17/06	03/17/07	03/17/07	03/20/10	03/20/10	03/19/11
Two years	04/17/06	03/15/08	03/18/08	03/19/11	03/19/11	03/17/12
Three years	04/17/06	03/21/09	03/21/09	03/17/12	03/17/12	03/16/13

Community Outreach and Tree Ordinance

The Tree Committee did not man a booth or distribute information at the Library Trustees Fuel Assistance Dinner.

Sue Gawler has agreed to contact the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA) and local business groups and to offer information on the proposed Tree Ordinance. Tish carr has agreed to contact the *Lake Region Reader* (http://www.turnerpublishing.net/publications/pub_48.html) to offer an article for publication in the next issue. Phil Sprague has agreed to contact the Belgrade Volunteer Fire Department to offer information on the proposed Tree Ordinance. These items are outstanding.

February 15 is the deadline for the March town newsletter. Prior to January 31, Sue Gawler will work out a draft article and send it to Tree Committee members for comments and/or feedback prior to submitting the article for publication.

The Board of Select Persons will hold a Public Hearing on the Referendum Questions for the March Town Meeting (Tree Ordinance is included) on Tuesday, January 29th at 6:30 p.m. at the Center For All Seasons. (Snow date is January 31.) This is the final opportunity for Tree Committee members to address the public prior to the March Town Meeting. Sue Gawler, Loyce Hayslett, Phil Sprague, and tish carr agreed to attend this public hearing.

Priorities for 2008

1. **Tree Ordinance – If the Tree Ordinance passes on March 14, the Tree Committee will organize its activities and discussions to meet new obligations under the ordinance.** Among other things, the Tree Committee will be required to prepare (and keep up to date) a notebook for the town's use in administering the Tree Ordinance.
2. **Project Canopy – The Tree Committee intends to apply for a Project Canopy Grant in 2008—all funds to be designated toward hazard tree removal.** Project Canopy guidelines appearing at <http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/projectcanopy/pages/resource/grants/2007/2007%20INNER%20CITY%20guidelines.pdf> pertain entirely to 2007. As of this date, we have no specific information for 2008. Jan Santerre (Maine Forest Service 623-2371) agreed to notify our committee when a date was set for the mandatory workshops. These were conducted in January last year but, as yet, we have not heard from her about the 2008 workshops. The 2007 application deadline was March 16, and, although the 2008 deadline is not known, it is likely to be a date close to March 16. Therefore, the following early actions are required:
 - a. Before the February 19 Tree Committee meeting, Norma will again request 2008 guidelines and an application. In any event, she will gather as much documentation as possible so that the committee can work on the grant application during its meeting on February 19, 2008.
 - b. Tish carr will try to find a copy of the 2005 Grant Application to use as a model.
 - c. Loyce Hayslett will ask Maurice Childs to identify trees that he considers priority candidates (for removal) and will also ask Maurice if he's willing to prepare a letter of support for the grant.
 - d. The committee will consider seeking letters of support from the Town Manager, the Fire Department, and the Belgrade Tree Warden as well as McGraw Pond citizens (or their association).

3. **Community Outreach – In 2008 the Tree Committee will continue its efforts to establish goodwill and to promote its mission among the citizens of Belgrade.**
4. **Tree Maintenance – In 2008 the Tree Committee will continue monitoring trees and shrubs planted with 2006 Canopy Grant funds. These are located at Loon Cove, Hayden Park, Belgrade Regional School, and in the downtown area of Belgrade Lakes.** Loyce Hayslett will contact the Loon Call Citizens Association to coordinate handing off the watering responsibility for trees planted at Loon Cove. Phil Sprague said he would be willing to oversee the maintenance and watering at Hayden Park.
5. **Tree Report for the Town of Belgrade - In 2008 the Committee will consider preparing a tree survey and report for use in long range planning for the town of Belgrade.** Among other considerations, this report may cover such subjects as preserving the tree canopy throughout the community and particularly in the downtown area, adding trees to school property and to the Depot area of town, addressing the issue of utility poles and interference with the canopy. Loyce suggested we contact the Long Range Planning Committee and ask if they would be interested in such a report, and Norma agreed to contact Macgregor Stocco.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Belgrade Tree Committee will be held at 5:30 pm at the Belgrade Town Hall on Tuesday, February 19, 2008.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Norma Blazer, Recording Secretary