

**Town of Belgrade Tree Committee
May 16, 2006**

A meeting of the Belgrade Tree Committee was held on Monday, May 16, 2006, at the Belgrade Town Hall. Acting chairman and advisory member, tish carr, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Ex officio members present:
tish carr, Belgrade Tree Warden

Committee members present:

Sue Gawler
Phil Sprague
Sylvia Coulombe
Kristie Wood
Norma Blazer
John Willey (arriving 6 pm)

Committee members absent:

John Blasenak
Loyce Hayslett
Doug Wood

Approval of Minutes

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2006, were approved as presented.

Election of Chair

Tish carr reported that Belgrade's Committee of Select Persons, at its meeting on April 17, 2006, agreed to accept the tree committee in its official advisory capacity. Citing this as a good indication that the Tree Committee is now well established, tish suggested that we elect an official chairman.

Norma Blazer nominated Kristie Wood to serve as chairman, and Sylvia Coulombe seconded the nomination. After a brief discussion, the five committee members present voted unanimously and elected Kristie Wood as the committee's first official chairman.

Tish then turned the meeting over to Kristie Wood, who presided for the remainder of the meeting.

Approval of Tree Committee by Belgrade's Committee of Select Persons

Kristie, who was present for and represented the Tree Committee at the April 17 meeting of the town's Committee of Select Persons, confirmed that the Committee of Select Persons did, indeed, unanimously approve the organization of and official advisory capacity of the Belgrade Tree Committee as set forth in its minutes of organizational meetings on April 4 and April 17, 2006. She reported that the Select Persons were pleased with the organizational progress of the Tree Committee to date and were enthusiastic about plans the committee has already made. Joel Elliott, staff writer for the Morning Sentinel, interviewed Kristie following the Select Persons Committee Meeting on April 17, and wrote an article that appeared in the paper on April 19. A copy of that article is included with these minutes as part of the official committee record.ⁱ

Status of Belgrade Project Canopy Grant and Tree Planting on June 12, 2006

Tish carr reported that Belgrade was awarded a state Canopy Grant of \$2,575, the full amount requested in the town's application. The grant requires that Belgrade will match the funds and purchase trees as outlined in the application, that volunteers will plant and care for the trees, and that 90 percent of the trees will still be alive in three years.

The trees have been purchased and are available for planting.

Some of the trees were selected to replace trees removed by CMP along Main Street in Belgrade. Some of the trees will be used on right-of-way property adjacent to and visible from public areas near Main Street in Belgrade. Phil Sprague will make calls and/or visit the private property owners to seek permission for planting and to obtain their agreement to water the trees regularly. Volunteers will plant the Main Street trees by the end of June. Some of the trees were selected to replace trees removed at Loon Cove. Trees selected for Loon Cove will be planted on June 12 by volunteers consisting of the Girl Scouts, students and alumni of the Master Tree Program, and members of the Belgrade Tree Committee.

Since the Canopy Project requires that 90 percent of the trees be alive after three years, it is the intent of this committee to arrange for care and periodic inspection of the subject trees during the next three years.

Sylvia Coulombe agreed to follow up in June of 2009 and to ensure that a note regarding the condition/health of the subject trees is included in the minutes of this committee at that time.

Master Tree Program

Members of the committee are invited to join the three remaining sessions of the Master Tree Program. Charlene Donahue will discuss insects and disease on Monday, May 22, and Sue McIntyre will discuss tree planting on Monday, June 5. No class is scheduled for Monday, May 29. Graduation on June 12 will coincide with the tree planting project at Loon Cove.

Time Sheets

The Project Canopy grant requires matching funds. For purposes of meeting this requirement, in-kind services are acceptable, including volunteer services. For this reason, Tree Committee members are asked to keep track of all their volunteer hours after May 1, 2006, on the Time Sheet for Volunteers (copy attached).ⁱⁱ For Tree Committee members, time spent in meetings, volunteer time in preparation for meetings, and time spent in educating or officially advising the Belgrade public on issues directly related to the trees all qualifies as in-kind services. The hourly rate for laypersons is \$10. Professionals, such as arborists or botanists, may record their hourly rate at their normal billing rate.

Other Business

Native Tree List

Sue Gawler provided a list of trees of Kennebec County, Maine, to all members present, indicating that the Norway maple is the only invasive species on the list. A copy of this list is attached.ⁱⁱⁱ

Gator Bags

Tish carr described "gator bags"—tree irrigation devices that can be wrapped around trees to allow drip irrigation over several hours. One of these bags can be obtained free by contacting the web site www.treegator.com clicking on the survey link, and completing the survey. Apparently, anyone may do this as many times as he wishes. Each Tree Committee member is urged to do this once for the Tree Committee. The free gator bags will be used to protect the new Project Canopy plantings.

Sugar Maples and Black Locust Trees

John Willey reported that he recently discovered that Sugar Maples planted near Black Locusts grow faster and produce sap earlier/more abundantly than Sugar Maples not planted near Black Locusts. He made this discovery while collecting data for a Cornell survey and has submitted his theory for formal consideration. If proven correct, this knowledge could be used to boost sap

production in sugar maples. When the Black Locust trees begin to interfere, they can be harvested for firewood.

Invitations to Road Commission and Cemetery Committee

Kristie Wood will prepare letters to Maurice Childs of the Road Commission and to Carl Yeaton of the Cemetery Committee, inviting each to future meetings of the Tree Committee held regularly on the third Tuesday of each month. Mr. Childs and Mr. Yeaton will be invited to participate fully in discussions and to participate as non-voting (ex-officio) members of the Tree Committee. This invitation is being extended as an important part of the Tree Committee's effort to ensure the welfare of Belgrade's trees with other significant interest groups in the community.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Belgrade Tree Committee will be held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, June 20, at 5:30 pm.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 6: 30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Norma Blazer, Recording Secretary

ⁱBelgrade group seeks tree lovers, Morning Sentinel, April 17, 2006

ⁱⁱ Time Sheet for Volunteers

ⁱⁱⁱ Trees of Kennebec County, Maine