

**Town of Belgrade Tree Committee
June 19, 2007**

A meeting of the Belgrade Tree Committee was held on Tuesday, June 19, 2007, at the Belgrade Town Hall.

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

Committee members present:
John Blasenak
Norma Blazer
Sylvia Coulombe
Sue Gawler
Kristie Wood

Committee members absent:
Loyce Hayslett
Phil Sprague
Doug Wood

One seat on the committee is vacant.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of May 15, 2007, were approved as corrected.

Tree Planting/Arbor Day Celebration

Since the last meeting, the last tree purchased with Project Canopy Grant funds was planted at Belgrade Central School. On June 13, Kristie Wood, Doug Wood, and Phil Sprague led twelve Ecology students at the school in an Arbor Day observance at the site of the Legacy Sugar Maple in front of the school. The students were enthusiastic, promised to protect the tree, and even named the tree—Phil-John BCS.

2006 Canopy Grant Review

On Thursday, June 14, Kristie Wood and Norma Blazer met with Becky Tavani, Community Forestry Coordinator with the Maine Forest Service. They inspected the trees purchased with 2006 Project Canopy Grant funds and planted at Loon Cove, in the triangle across from the Sunset Grill, on the Grover property across from the Village Inn, at the Belgrade Central School, and at Hayden Park. Generally, Becky observed the trees to be in good condition—except that one of the Red-Osier Dogwoods that we moved from Loon Cove to Hayden Park could not be located and is presumed not to have survived. The other Red-Osier Dogwood at Hayden Park is not thriving. Becky said the final accounting is detailed, complete, and descriptive. One invoice is missing—an invoice from AW Leonard for \$349.80 (although a copy of the town's cancelled check was included among the documents). Subsequent to the inspection, Kristie contacted Town Treasurer Pam Tracy who agreed to fax a copy of the invoice to Becky at the Main Forest Service. Based on the feedback received at this meeting, it appears the accounting will be approved and that the town will be reimbursed shortly for all money it has advanced for this project.

Becky suggested we consider the area near Hammond Lumber known as The Depot if we have money to spend for trees in the future. She also mentioned there is grant money available to remove stumps (such as the one on Main Street), if we can use it. Throughout our inspection, she stressed that we need to coordinate carefully with any private landowner whose property is infringed upon or changed when we work. She will send our names and e-mail addresses to the Lewiston-Auburn Tree Committee who is organizing an educational workshop.

Tish reminded members that the water bags are in her barn and, if we don't get a gentle, soaking rain within a day or two, all the trees might need water. For sure, the trees at Hayden Park and Belgrade Central School will need water because they are newer. Sylvia is to contact Marty Spann to confirm that Marty is watering the trees at Loon Cove this year. Sylvia will also ask Marty who is mowing the area at Loon Cove this summer. Tish confirmed that the stakes around the Loon Cove

trees are to prevent accidental damage from mowers and trimming tools. Mrs. Grover is watering the trees on her property across from the Village Inn. It appears someone is watering the trees across from the Sunset Grill (which are thriving). So far, to our knowledge no one (except the committee) is watering the trees at Belgrade Central School or at Hayden Park.

Projects for 2007

Chairman Kristie Wood summarized our efforts to date and shared her vision for the committee this year. Much of our first year was devoted to getting established and planting trees associated with the 2006 Canopy Grant. In addition, we spent time planning and writing/reviewing the proposed Tree Ordinance. The Tree Ordinance failed at the June 12 election in a vote of 290 (for) to 449 (against). Most committee members agree the ordinance failed due to inadequate public information about its purpose and scope. This year, as summarized well by Kristie, we will focus on building a credible presence in the community—explaining our objectives and our scope to the citizens. Among other things, we will keep fresh articles at the web site, submit news items to local publications, set up at community events, and publish informative brochures. We will also work to promote the benefits of a town tree ordinance and work with members of the Cemetery Committee to preserve as many of the trees as possible there during their expansion, now scheduled for 2008.

Tish mentioned there is federal and/or state grant money available for public education and suggested we research how to apply for that and to keep it in mind for funding our public outreach efforts.

Norma agreed to prepare a list of benchmarks that we need to meet so that we can present the Tree Ordinance again next March in the general election.

Members agreed we should establish a presence at all community events to include the Fourth of July Celebration, the Loon Calling, the Oktoberfest, and the Christmas Stroll. Tish suggested we consider giving away/selling seedlings at the Christmas Stroll. She has purchased seedlings in the past from Western Maine Nursery. They are very small, cost about a dollar, and can be kept in the refrigerator until spring, then planted. This was a very popular idea.

Getting Started

Kristie agreed to write an article about the tree planting at Belgrade Central School for the paper.

Norma agreed to find out when articles are due for the quarterly town newsletter and to let everyone on the committee know by e-mail.

Everyone agreed to meet at the cemetery (Routes 8/11/135) before our next meeting. Carl Yeaton will walk us through the area and describe the Cemetery Committee's plans for expansion. We will invite MacGregor Stocco and other members of the Long Range Planning Committee to accompany us.

The Tree Committee will begin to build a calendar of events and community meetings and celebrations so that we can be more proactive in our outreach efforts.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Belgrade Tree Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, July 17, 2007. We will meet Carl Yeaton at 5:30 at the Belgrade Cemetery near Routes 8/11/135 for a walk through the expansion area.

Respectfully submitted,
Norma Blazer, Recording Secretary