

**Town of Belgrade Tree Committee
August 15, 2006**

Call to Order

A meeting of the Belgrade Tree Committee was held on Tuesday, August 15, 2006, at the Belgrade Town Hall. Committee chairman, Kristie Wood, called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Ex officio members present:
tish carr, Belgrade Tree Warden

Committee members present:

Sylvia Coulombe
Loyce Hayslett
Phil Sprague
John Willey
Kristie Wood

Committee members absent:

John Blasenak
Norma Blazer
Sue Gawler
Doug Wood

Approval of Minutes

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of July 18, 2006, were corrected to reflect *planting* forsythia vs. *replacing* forsythia as a suggested use for excess Project Canopy funds (b.).

Hayden Park Soil Erosion Project

In 2003, the Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District did an erosion control planting in Hayden Park. Josh Platt, who works for the District, is asking for volunteers to assist in maintaining the beds by weeding twice a year—once at the beginning of the season and again mid-season.

There was general discussion about the number of volunteer hours the committee members can actually perform, and everyone agrees that we should not over-commit committee members' time.

Loyce and Phil volunteered to maintain the beds. They will meet this week at Hayden Park to begin weeding. The area was mulched with special erosion mulch last year, but the area has not been mulched this year. Tish will join them and, meanwhile, will try to contact Josh Platt to find out if the Conservation District will purchase mulch for this year.

Project Canopy

Sylvia addressed concerns about six of the trees planted at Loon Cove. She reported they were not doing well due to a combination of bugs attacking and use of the gator bags. She also questioned if three of them were planted in a sewage drain and need to be replanted elsewhere. The bugs can be taken care of with soapy water or spraying "Anti-Pest-O" bug spray.

The gator bags ran out of water and were not refilled. Marty Spann was out of town, and no one knew she was gone. It was suggested the gator bags be removed as they are preventing the natural rain from being fully absorbed. If the gator bags are to remain, we should punch additional holes in them to increase the water flow. Last week, Sylvia removed some of the bags. We will talk with Marty about the gator bags and the watering of the trees.

Two of the trees planted on Main Street look dry. As a committee, we need to make a point of watering the trees we've planted. It was also decided the committee should go to assess the trees. Those who can make it will meet at Loon Cove on Friday morning.

Sylvia also mentioned those who are mowing the lawn at Loon Cove are mowing into and/or over the mulch surrounding the trees. As well, the trees are being nicked at the base, apparently by weed whackers. We need to find out who is mowing the lawn and ask him to be more careful.

There is still money to be spent from the grant. Tish is going to check to see if we can purchase gator bags with some of the remaining money. If it is allowed, she will buy five, but these will be different from the ones at Loon Cove. They will drain in six hours. Prices are being looked at for a collapsible water tank. There is a 525 gallon tank that fills the bed of a truck for \$540. Phil will check for water tanks in a catalog the fire department receives.

In conjunction with the general discussion about over-committing committee members' time, it was decided we should take care of the trees we have already planted before we purchase more trees to plant (and to subsequently care for). Therefore, in lieu of purchasing more trees, the excess money from the grant could be used to buy gator bags for Main Street, a collapsible water tank, and to remove a few hazard trees.

Website

Norma has been working to establish a web page for the Tree Committee at the Hometown USA website for Belgrade. Our page is up and running and can be viewed at www.belgrademaine.com. It is located under the "Community" section—Tree Committee. We have posted information there about our committee--who we are, what we do, how to reach us—and one informative article on clearing tree damage after a storm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Belgrade Tree Committee will be held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, September 19, 2006.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristie Wood, Committee Chairman