

**Town of Belgrade Tree Committee
October 16, 2007**

A meeting of the Belgrade Tree Committee was held on Tuesday, October 16, 2007, at the Belgrade Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 5:37 pm.

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

Town Manager, Dennis Keschl, was present for a portion of the meeting.

Committee members present:

John Blasenak
Norma Blazer
Sylvia Coulombe
Sue Gawler
Loyce Hayslett
Phil Sprague

Committee members absent:

Kristie Wood
Doug Wood

One seat on the committee is vacant.

Approval of Minutes

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

Discussion on Tree Ordinance

Members discussed whether to submit the proposed Tree Ordinance to the voters in March 2008. Dennis Keschl joined our meeting and outlined many ways to educate voters in advance. Loyce suggested moving ahead with the ordinance, using the November 6 election as an opportunity to educate. She suggested placing copies of the ordinance in the town office and at the library. The Cemetery Committee will present an ordinance in March as well. Tish suggested that the Cemetery Committee and the Tree Committee work together to get both ordinances passed. Sue expressed a concern that we are short three committee members at this time and might not have the energy or time to promote the ordinance as will be required. Norma expressed reservations about whether the committee has developed enough goodwill to guarantee success with the ordinance at this time.

On motion duly made and seconded it was voted (4 to 2) to proceed with efforts to put the Tree Ordinance on the March 2008 ballot and to proceed with efforts to educate the citizens about its benefits to the community.

Phil Sprague will attend the Selectboard meeting later this evening to answer any questions that arise. Phil will also attend the Cemetery Committee meeting tomorrow night and will ask whether that committee is interested in working together to get both ordinances passed in March (the Cemetery Ordinance and the Tree Ordinance).

Tish volunteered to build a display board outlining the accomplishments of the Tree Committee and the benefits of a Tree Ordinance to the community. She will also have copies of the ordinance, a FAQ handout, and talking points to use as educational tools.

Committee following members volunteered to serve two hour increments at the polling place on November 6.

8 am	–	10 am	Phil Sprague
10 am	–	Noon	Sue Gawler
Noon	–	2 pm	Phil Sprague
2 pm	–	4 pm	John Blasenak
4 pm	–	6 pm	Loyce Hayslett
6 pm	–	8 pm	tish carr

Temporary Chairperson and Duties of the Chair

Committee members agreed that we need a continuing temporary chair to serve until Kristie Wood returns. The duties of the temporary chair will be limited to preparing the agenda, running the meetings, and coordinating with the town on behalf of the Tree Committee. Other responsibilities, should they arise, will be assigned or handled on a volunteer basis. Sue Gawler agreed to serve as continuing temporary chairman until Kristie returns.

Residency and Committee Membership

Sue Gawler will check with Dennis Keschl about whether the town has an official policy that town committee members must also be residents of the town.

Town Newsletter

Norma agreed to write a "Want Ad" for new committee members. We will review the proposed ad at our November meeting and, once agreed, will submit it to the town for the December newsletter.

We will also prepare FAQ's related to the Tree Ordinance at our November meeting and submit these to the town for inclusion in the December newsletter.

The deadline for the December newsletter is on or about November 15.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Belgrade Tree Committee will be held at 5:30 pm at the Belgrade Town Hall on Tuesday, November 13, 2007. November 13 is the second Tuesday in November. Since we usually meet on the third Tuesday each month, we need to notify Mary Vogel that our meeting will be held early.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Norma Blazer, Recording Secretary