



**PARKS, TREE AND GREENWAY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**November 7, 2012
6:00 PM**

Members Present

Roger Fish
Nydia Morales
Justin King
Alex Rohleder
Ed Dubisz
Brian Olin
Dhruv Bhatt

Staff Present

Hillary Pace
Helen Boich

Call to Order: Chairman Fish called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Kim Nicholson and Roger McWhorter were absent

Approval of Minutes: September 5, 2012 and September 24, 2012 **Approved**

Discussion items:

New Committee Member- Dhruv Bhatt

Mr. Bhatt was sworn in as an alternate member and introduced himself to the committee.

Ms Pace informed the committee, on request of Town Manager Joe Fivas, that the Park Bond has passed. Chair fish stated the vote count was 8207 in favor, 5726 opposed.

Mayor's Tree Initiative:

Ms Pace stated this will be a standing item on the agenda. The program will extend to Middle schools. She stated the program should be completed before the Earth Day Arbor Day event which is at the end of April. Ms Pace stated Mayor Alvarez liked the idea of the seedlings to the elementary school children. She stated, in speaking to Shelley DeHart regarding the Middle and High School students, the idea of a competition in the form of a public education video was suggested. The committee could judge the contest.

Member Dubisz suggested, being there is a need for trees at all schools, doing a lot of trees at one school at a time. Ms Pace replied the goal is to do outreach to as many as possible. There is a good partnership with the schools for maintenance so that burden is on them.

Member King suggested the instead of sending the seedlings home to have the children plant them at school.

Member Olin suggested continuing the seedling project and have the children come up with a tree planting master plan.

Ms Pace stated the County has hired a new Urban Forester but she is not sure of the involvement he will have in the committee.

Recap of Planning Month

Ms Pace informed the committee of the outreach projects which included the Box City project at Poplin Elementary and a display at the library of what the Planning Board does.

Chair Fish suggested a display for Earth Day/Arbor Day at the library.

Crossing Paths Park Spring Cleanup

Ms Pace stated Tree City USA reporting time is on December 15th. Last year the committee planted heavy screening plants and the committee needs to come up with plan to do more in the parks. She discussed a tree pruning class that would contribute to the public education component of the Tree City program.

Member Olin suggested partnership with some of the nurseries to do classes.

Chair Fish suggested the Urban Forester could be contacted to supply information and/or conduct classes.

The Boy Scouts were suggested to earn credit for badges.

Other business

Ms Pace stated the community garden program is in draft form, is being reviewed by staff and will be presented to the committee in the near future.

Mayor Alvarez stated there is positive feedback from the schools for the Tree Initiative. He appreciates having the children involved in the community planning.

Ms Pace stated the annual report will not be brought to Council for approval every year as previously. The committee will continue with the tasks that have been developed and will

implement any requests that are brought before them by Council or staff. As programs come up they will be developed as a group but there will be no formal work program.

Chair Fish asked if this is the same as the report given to Council. Ms Pace replied the approach will be different. The committee will come before the Council with a program initiative plan.

The 5th of December is the date of the next meeting.

Chair Fish informed the members of the meetings regarding the Comprehensive Plan update. HNTB is the consultant for updating the document. Additional meetings will be held if any members would like to be involved.

Topics for the next meeting: In the previous discussion.

Adjournment

**Town of Indian Trail
Parks, Tree and Greenway Committee**

_____ **Chair** _____ **Date**

_____ **Secretary**