

**Village of Essex Junction
Tree Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting
September 25, 2025**

Members Present: Nick Meyer, Warren Spinner, Max Seaton, Steve Rivard, Rich Boyers

Prior to the meeting Ashley Snellenberger led the Tree Committee on a tour of the renovations at the City Offices.

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 by Nick.

2. Additions to the Agenda

No additions to the agenda

3. Public to Be Heard

No additional members of the community were present.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve March meeting minutes was made by Warren, second by Steve.

3. State of the Trees

The Committee discussed the stress on the trees this summer due to severe drought conditions. Warren indicated that we would not know the real impact until next summer. Warren and Nick added gator bags to the new trees along the Railroad Street extension. Most of the trees appeared quite compromised. Steve shared that Branch Out Burlington donated some gator bags to the City.

4. Tree Planting

Around 27 to 30 trees are ready to be pulled from the BOB nursery for a spring planting. The committee discussed the best way to identify new tree planting locations and how to share the workload of reaching out to homeowners. Rich suggested the committee create a spreadsheet of potential sites. Committee members could divide up the task of knocking on doors and record whether a homeowner is interested in having a tree planted. Steve suggested that the committee should encourage neighbors to reach out to other neighbors. Warren talked about the benefit of planting on private property, as it puts the responsibility on the landowners and less of a burden on public works.

Nick shared that he met with Garry Scott in facilities about a memorial tree at Essex High to be planted near the school library. An elm or a tulip tree were discussed as possibilities. Several committee members volunteered to plant the tree with Nick on November 8th at 9:00 am.

5. Committee Reorganization

The Committee began to brainstorm ways to organize the work of the committee to make it more efficient and sustainable. Rich suggested the two main areas could be Community Outreach and Public Tree Planting. Community Outreach might include: Greatest Tree Contest, Arbor Day, tree walk, tree care workshops, tree care information, and knocking on doors for tree planting sites. In terms of the tree walk, Rich wondered whether Parks would be interested in taking on more of a leadership role with the project, while the Tree Committee served an advisory function.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 6:05.

Minutes Approved on November 25, 2025