

Bath Community Forestry Committee
Minutes for Wednesday, November 12, 2025
4:00pm at Parks Dept

Present: Nancy Sferra, Rod Melanson, Leiha Lynn, Brian Milakovsky, Amanda Egan, Jim Hummer, Bruce

Meeting Agenda

1. Approve October meeting minutes and review status of follow up actions (All)
 - a. Minutes for October were approved
 - b. Introductions were done to welcome Amanda Egan to committee
2. Update on Project Canopy application and EAB project (Brian and Rod)
 - a. The city submitted a proposal to Project Canopy to fund treatment of the city's ash trees to protect against emerald ash borer in the south end of the city
 - b. No info on when funding decisions will be made by the state
 - c. **Committee should begin working on a community engagement plan even if we don't get funding. This will allow us to provide city residents with information on EAB and treatment options they may want to implement on their residential trees. Need to organize for January or February**
 - d. **The committee should provide the city with a budget estimate for ash treatment and removal for 2026/27**
 - e. Maine Forest Service will pay for the treatment of 12 ash trees in 2026. If funding is awarded for south Bath, treatment of the 12 trees should take place in north Bath
 - f. **In prep for potential treatment with herbicides, Nancy will send an email to Marc about the use of herbicides so that we can proactively engage the City Council on the need for this program (this also an issue with hemlock wooly adelgid and invasives, in general).**
3. HWA beetle release and potential next steps (Brian and Nancy)
 - a. 550 *Laracobius nigrinus* were released at Butler Head in a hemlock stand northwest of Mallard. It's recommended that we get beetles for two more years. MFS recommends beginning a spray program where the bottom 5 -6 feet of the lower trunk at a rate of 2 -5 trees per acre.
 - b. **We should put together a budget for spraying the hemlocks to determine if we should request funding in the city budget or if BCFC can pay for it.**
4. Treescape Plan (Nancy and Rod)
 - a. The current Treescape Plan does not have a recommendations table, timeline for implementation, or budget estimates. Given new planning – comprehensive plan, climate action plan, zoning update -and new threats (primarily EAB), we may want to revise the plan to make it more specific.
 - b. We also discussed the need to redo the street tree inventory and wondered if Project Canopy funding might be a potential
 - c. **Nancy will meet with Steve regarding needs at parks and cemeteries**
 - d. **Rod will convert the current plan to a Word document**
5. Druid Park plan (Nancy)
 - a. The vegetation has been removed from Druid Park.
 - b. **Need to develop a planting plan for next spring**
6. Nursery fall fertilizing (Bruce)
 - a. Bruce fertilized the bed at the nursery, planted a linden in the bed, and Nancy planted 4 red osier dogwood into the bed

- b. Tabled discussion about a new bed until the March meeting
- 7. Butler Head fall workdays (All)
 - a. The lower field was bush-hogged and discussed having a work party to cut back some of the branches encroaching on the field to make it easier to mow.
 - b. Someone cut a new trail from the end of pintail to the pintail extension to create a loop. Committee decided to formalize the trail.
- 8. Newsletter (Barbara)
 - a. 300 copies of the fall newsletter were printed and distributed around town
- 9. Butler Head addition update (Jim)
 - a. The Sherigans will be required to remove the tires from the shoreline. We should make sure we get a plan of action from the Sherigans to ensure the project is done appropriately
- 10. Tree City Application
 - a. **Bruce offered to take first stab at the Tree City application**

Updates from Departments and Committees

- 1. Forestry Department (Chris)
- 2. Bike, Ped, and Transportation Committee (Megan)
- 3. Climate Action Committee (No report this month unless Rod is in attendance)
- 4. Solid Waste Advisory Committee (Megan)
- 5. Community Development Committee (Leiha)
- 6. Housing Committee (Leiha)

Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, December 9, 4:00 pm – next BCFC meeting