



## TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 @ 2:00 PM

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Debbie Evans, Chairperson, opened the meeting at 2:00 PM.

### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

### III. ATTENDANCE

**Members present:** Debbie Evans, Richard Cosola, Charles Sandell, Kathy Siena, Maureen Parkes

**Members absent:** Adrienne Deutsch

**Staff present:** Will Gurney (Operations Supervisor) and Michelle Diaz (Recording Secretary)

### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### A. JUNE 2, 2021 TREE BOARD MINUTES

Debbie Evans stated a correction be made under Section V. STAFF UPDATES, under the ninth paragraph, fifth sentence. Ms. Evans requested that the wording of "would able to see" be changed to "would be able to see".

Debbie Evans stated that she wanted to clarify a point she made about lighting in Section VIII. COMMENTS, under the third paragraph. Ms. Evans emphasized that the purpose of lighting being pointed downwards is to avoid sky glow.

**A motion was made by Charles Sandell, seconded by Richard Cosola, to approve and adopt the June 2, 2021 Tree Board meeting minutes, with corrections, unanimously passed by Debbie Evans, Richard Cosola, Charles Sandell, Kathy Siena, and Maureen Parkes (5-0); with Adrienne Deutsch absent.**

### V. STAFF UPDATES

#### A. RECENT PLANTINGS & STATUS UPDATES – WILL GURNEY

Will Gurney updated the Tree Board on recent plantings and status updates.

Mr. Gurney stated more plantings were completed in July and August. At Brampton Cove Park, seven (7) Pond Cypress trees were planted and two (2) Slash pine trees were planted to replace two trees that had pine borers.

Mr. Gurney advised the Tree Board about the status of annual tree planting for National Public Lands Day, in collaboration with the Wellington Garden Club. He is expecting a shipment of trees next week in preparation for the event. Kathy Siena stated the event would take place on the last Saturday of September (September 25<sup>th</sup>) at 8:30 AM at the Wellington Environmental Preserve (Section 24); this will be the seventh annual tree planting event. Ms. Siena stated that if any Tree Board members wanted more details on the event, they could contact her.

Mr. Gurney advised the Tree Board of the Wellington Rotary Peace Park restoration project he has been working on. He stated the goal of this project is to restore the wetlands to its original state. The work taking place consists of removing invasive plants, planting aquatic landscape materials, pumping more water into the wetland, and planting native orchids. He estimated the project will take a few years to complete.

Mr. Gurney stated that there were very few tree removals completed this year (excluding exotic invasive removals). Debbie Evans inquired about a Slash Pine tree removal from the Binks Forest median in January due to pine borers. She was wondering why the tree replacement would be planted in a different location. Mr. Gurney stated he would be planting pines in the Open Space Reserves (OSRs) around Wellington and that he planted Pond Cypress trees in the median.

Mr. Gurney updated the Tree Board on the project taking place at Scott's Place and the Amphitheater. Mr. Gurney stated that the budget was reduced for the project, so the plans that were provided will be changed. He emphasized that the goal of the project is to expand Scott's Place by relocating parking areas in order to create more green space near the Amphitheater. He stated trees that are currently in the parking areas will be relocated to different parts of Wellington. Debbie Evans inquired about who is responsible for the trees to be planted there and if it is possible to plant more native plants than what is listed on the plan. Mr. Gurney stated he made recommendations to the landscape architect of the project, but ultimately they want a lot of color and variation with the landscape to be installed. Ms. Evans requested that if there is a final plan before the next meeting that it be presented to members. Mr. Gurney stated a final plan would be provided to members as soon as it is made available.

Kathy Siena inquired about the roundabout near Greenbriar Park and the possibility of installing landscape materials in that roundabout. Will Gurney stated that at this time there are no plans to install landscape materials in that roundabout as it is not outfitted with an irrigation system. Debbie Evans asked if it is possible to use drought-tolerant landscape materials for the roundabout until an irrigation system can be installed. Mr. Gurney stated it is possible so long as there is enough visibility for cars; he recommended installing some boulders and low-growing Juniper shrubs.

Ms. Siena inquired about the trees at Greenbriar Park and who is responsible for maintenance on the trees. Mr. Gurney stated that the Village of Wellington is responsible for maintenance. He added that maintenance on those trees is planned for later this year, once a grant has been obtained.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. F.L.O.W.E.R. AWARD NOMINATIONS**

Tree Board discussed the F.L.O.W.E.R. Award Nominations.

Debbie Evans advised the Tree Board to submit their nominations before the next meeting on December 1, 2021. Ms. Evans briefly reviewed the nomination guidelines with members.

## **VII. COMMENTS**

Debbie Evans inquired about permit applications being submitted for tree removals on private property and if this information was available to the Tree Board. Will Gurney stated those records would be kept by Planning and Zoning and that a Public Information Request would need to be submitted in order to obtain that information.

Charles Sandell advised staff and members to ensure trees are being trimmed in preparation for the hurricane season. Will Gurney stated that trimming has taken place over the past few months throughout Wellington.

Debbie Evans informed members that there are currently two (2) vacancies on the Tree Board. She stated applications can be found on the Village of Wellington website and submitted to the Clerk's Office.

## **VIII. ADJOURN**

**A motion was made by Richard Cosola, and seconded by Charles Sandell, to adjourn at 2:48 PM. The motion was unanimously passed, with Debbie Evans, Richard Cosola, Charles Sandell, Kathy Siena, and Maureen Parkes (5-0); with Adrienne Deutsch absent.**

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Approved and Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

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Michelle Diaz, Recording Secretary