



Helen Donaldson <hcd@portlandmaine.gov>

10/23 Planning Board Meeting - Maine Med Proposal

Karen Snyder <karsny@yahoo.com>

Wed, Oct 24, 2018 at 11:53 AM

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To: Helen Donaldson <hcd@portlandmaine.gov>, Planning Board <planningboard@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: Jeff Tarling <jst@portlandmaine.gov>

Hi Nell,

I think the Maine Med latest proposal is definitely more respectful and considerate to the residential neighborhood around Maine Med. Thanks to Maine Med working with the neighborhood organization representatives to address the residents concerns.

I just have three topics to address:

1) Even though the proposed Maine Med building on Congress is beautiful, it is also kind of sterile looking, especially with that 5 story shear concrete or granite wall next to the entrance. If Maine native trees could be planted in the multiple plant beds in front of the building instead of some low shrubs, this will provide a more "green", healthy, and calming experience to the people entering the new building when walking up Congress. Also, it will give visitors a cool canopy in the summer when it is hot against all that large expanse of concrete/granite plaza area in front of the building and also winter interest if conifers are planted. If the designers want to emulate Maine's granite/forest nature, why not embrace it and actually plant Maine's native trees (everyone loves the birch tree and spruce/hemlock) in the planter beds against the backdrop of this building? I think it would make the building look more beautiful and inviting.

2) Can there be a official confirmation that residents will continue to have snow ban parking privileges at the visitor Congress St parking garage or the St. John parking garage? If so, how many reserved spots and where?

3) I was surprised to hear the 12 mature oak trees that are on the Maine Med property close to the parking garage will be replaced with a 8 medium sized street trees called the Honey Locust. Also, I was surprised to see this tree on Portland's recommended tree list since it is not even native to Maine and climate zone. In fact, from the Portland's Recommended Street Tree list, only 1 of Portland's recommended medium street trees are actually a native to Maine as shown below. However, the recommended large street trees are mostly native to Maine... except for the Catalpa and that junk tree, ginkgo biloba from China.

Can someone explain to me why City of Portland Parks department isn't using trees from the Maine Native tree list as recommended Portland street trees shown in below from Maine.gov and UMaine websites? A good example is that the non-native ginkgo needs to be removed from this tree list because the ginkgo street trees planted on Munjoy Hill are stunted and provide no shade coverage at all.

<http://www.portlandmaine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1765/Recommended-Tree-List?bidid=>

Portland, ME Recommended Tree List


Medium Size Trees 25'-45'	Native to Maine	Native
1 River Birch	No	Southeastern quarter of USA
2 American or European Hornbeam	Yes	Minnesota to Ontario east to Maine, South to Texas
3 Katsuratree	No	China and Japan
4 American Yellowwood	No	Southeast restricted range: from eastern North Carolina to Oklahoma, southern Missouri and Indiana to south to central Alabama
5 Turkish Filbert	No	Southeast Europe to Western Asia
6 Honeylocust	No	Central states, southeastern South Dakota to New Orleans
7 Tupelo	No	eastern North America from the coastal Northeast USA and southern Ontario south to central Florida and eastern Texas, as well as Mexico
8 Korean Mountain Ash	No	Korea, Japan, and China
Large Size Trees 45' +	Native to Maine	Native
1 Red Maple	Yes	https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/yardscaping/plants/n_trees.htm
Amstrong Red Maple	Yes	https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/yardscaping/plants/n_trees.htm
Karpick & Bowhall Red Maple	Yes	https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/yardscaping/plants/n_trees.htm
Redpointe/& Red Sunset Red Mapl	Yes	https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/yardscaping/plants/n_trees.htm
2 Sugar Maple	Yes	https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/yardscaping/plants/n_trees.htm
3 Catalpa	No	it is native to southern and southeastern Illinois.
4 Beech	Yes	https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/yardscaping/plants/n_trees.htm
5 Ginkgo Biloba	No	China
6 Tuliptree	Possibly	But not on the Maine.gov Native Tree List
7 Cucumber Magnolia	Possibly	But not on the Maine.gov Native Tree List

The native Maine trees are listed on UMaine and Maine.gov websites...

<https://extension.umaine.edu/publications/2500e/>

https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/yardscaping/plants/n_trees.htm

Regards,
Karen Snyder
Gilman St Property Owner

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