



City of Newburyport Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2024

The meeting convened at 6:39 pm.

Tree Commission members present: Paul Knowlton (Chair), Bob Uhlig (Vice-Chair), Marcia Edson (Secretary), Marilyn Cohodas, Becky MacKnight (Alternate)

Tree Warden: Mike Hennessey

Absent: Scott Hanley, Jean Berger, Paul Harrington (Financial Secretary), Stephanie Pellegrini

Public comment

No public comment

Tree Warden report

In an update on 6 Pine St., Mike confirmed that the developer will be removing a Norway Maple and will donate 3 trees at FoNT's recommended \$575 per tree. Mike will work with the owners to choose appropriate species for that site. Councilor Zeid and Finance Director Ethan Manning spoke with Mike about the necessity for transparency around donations over \$500. Mike, Paul H., and Ethan Manning will meet to discuss the system for receiving monies and the status of the Tree Commission's revolving account.

The resident at the corner of Ocean and Carter has agreed to wait until April for action on his request to remove a tree. Mike reported that the owner was pleased to learn about the process for evaluating a tree removal request.

The Dec. 18th windstorm caused damage to several trees around the city. Trees were removed at Atkinson Common, Moseley Woods, Cherry Hill soccer area and Kent St.

Mike presented Jim McCarthy's request for moving three trees: 1 on Pond St., 1 on Greenleaf St., and 1 on Senior Center Drive. Mike provided background information for each of the sites and answered several questions that came up during the discussion. Becky moved to accept the request to move the Zelkova at 5 Pond St., but keep the trees on Greenleaf St. and Senior Center Drive. Seconded by Marcia, the vote was unanimous.

Secretary's report

Motion by Becky to approve minutes of the December 14, 2023, meeting, seconded by Bob. Minutes approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report

No treasurer's report

Spring 2024 planting

The spring 2024 spreadsheet was reviewed by Paul K. The maximum number of trees to be planted will be 60. There are 55 trees currently listed for spring planting. Paul still has a few residents to contact. Becky spoke with the residents of 8 and 10 Adams St. and 1 Upland St. They did not wish to donate trees.

Bob asked if there was a plan to replace the row of mature trees that were removed from the Cherry St. side of the Courthouse. Mike will reach out to Courthouse personnel to find out if there is a replacement plan in place.

Paul mentioned the triangle of city land on Ferry Wharf and the pending tree donation for that spot. Given the location's proximity to the river, Mike recommended a London Plane Tree or Red Oak. Paul K. will follow up with the donor.

Becky suggested that we might look at the space along Woodman Way which has no trees. MiMap view suggests enough room for 4-6 trees. Paul K and Becky will visit the site and report back.

Social Media update

Marilyn reported there were 159 followers of X (formerly Twitter). Paul K. suggested that Marilyn contact the Daily News directly to see about using articles on the Tree Commission.

FoNT report

No report

Tree Inventory

Paul H. sent a Tree Inventory list that will be reviewed next month.

New Business

No new business

Old Business

Criteria for Tree Removal Request – After using the draft, Mike suggested adding Yes and No responses to each statement for clarity. Marcia will revise and send it to Mike.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Becky, seconded by Marcia. Unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Next meeting will be at 6:30 PM, February 8, 2024, in the Program Room of the Library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcia Edson, Secretary