



City of Newburyport Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2023

The meeting convened at 6:30 pm.

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

Absent: Scott Hanley, Jean Berger, Jenn Sullivan (Acting Deputy DPS Director)

Public comment: No comment

Introduction of new member: Becky MacKnight was sworn in today. Becky is an environmental consultant, eager to help on the Tree Commission.

Tree Warden report: No report

Secretary's report: Motion by Paul H, seconded by Paul K. to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2023, meeting. Minutes approved unanimously.

Paul H. suggested adding Action Items to the minutes to assure that ideas raised during the meeting would be addressed.

Treasurer's report: Paul H. reviewed the updated Financial Report. He is working with the auditor on issues related to the revolving account. Jenn Sullivan will be sending monthly accounting data from DPS to Paul H. so he can track expenses more accurately.

FoNT report – Steph reviewed FoNT's plans for Arbor Day, April 22, that were outlined in Jean's email. The celebration will be held at the Y. From 9:00-10:00 there will be a shrub and tree pruning demonstration by local arborists, followed by the mayor reading the Arbor Day Proclamation. will be read by the mayor followed by a pruning demonstration by local arborists. At 10:30 groups of volunteers including FoNT members and Tree Commissioners will prune recently planted trees on High and Merrimac Streets. Becky suggested connecting with the Parks Alliance for additional volunteers. Steph will work with FoNT so set up a Google sign up doc.

Election of officers: Results of election, all unanimous votes: Paul Knowlton, Chair; Bob Uhlig, Vice Chair, Paul Harrington, Financial Secretary, Marcia Edson, Secretary

Tree Commission tasks: Marcia circulated the list of tasks that Paul H. had presented at the last meeting so that members could volunteer for specific tasks. Becky volunteered to work with Paul K on tree inventory. Marilyn will continue to handle Community Outreach.

Spring planting 2023: Paul K. shared the Spring 2023 Planting spreadsheet. A total of 28 trees will be planted this spring. Paul H will send out RFPs to Bigelow and Northeast nurseries. Once the vendor is selected, Paul K will go to the nursery to select the trees. Marcia asked about the possibility of purchasing larger trees like the ones purchased by National Grid last year. Paul H. explained that the typical trunk caliper is 1 ½ - 2 in. runs about \$250. The larger tree with a trunk caliper of 2 ½ in. would cost \$25-50 more. Bob suggested choosing a species with a bigger canopy rather than an ornamental species.

Suggestions for consideration of streets for future plantings included Hunter St., Dennett Dr., Fox Run Dr., Farrell St.

Tree Bag Collection: Paul K. explained why around 20 tree bags are still on trees, mostly in the north end. He urged any members who come across those tree bags to collect them and return them to him.

Update on DPS administrators: Marcia reported that Andrew Levine, the Mayor's chief of staff, wrote that Jenn Sullivan, the Acting Deputy DPS Director will be the Tree Commission's DPS contact. Marcia will include her on all relevant T.C. correspondence. There was a discussion about the changes that will be occurring at the DPS with a new director, and the inclusion of the Parks Dept. It was agreed that this might be an opportune time to communicate Tree Commission ideas and future plans to the mayor.

Community Outreach: Marcia stated that the Middle School teachers have chosen not to participate in this year's DCR Arbor Day Poster Contest.

Action Items for next meeting

- Include Tree Commission link on FoNT website.

- Volunteers for FoNT Arbor Day Pruning
- Investigate city's social media platforms to raise T.C. profile.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:12 PM by Steph, seconded by Marcia. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. Next meeting will be at 6:30 PM, April 13, 2023, in the Program Room of the Library.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcia Edson, Secretary