



City of Newburyport Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 9 October 2019

Department of Public Services, 16A Perry Way

Meeting convened at 6:07 pm.

Tree Commission members (TC) present: Constance Preston (Chair) (**CP**); Sheila Taintor (Secretary) (**ST**); Paul Bevilacqua (**PB**); Andrew Soracco (**AS**); Jamie Tuccolo (**JT**), Tree Warden, ex-officio; Lance Rickard (**LR**) Tree Warden Designee, Assistant Tree Warden, ex-officio

Tree Commission members absent: Crispin Miller (Vice Chair/Treasurer) (**CM**); Scott Hanley (**SH**)

Reports

Secretary

The Commission approved the Minutes of the 11 September 2019 Meeting unanimously.

Treasurer

Due to **CM**'s absence, **CP** made the Treasurer's Report. **CP** explained that the Commission paid the July, August and September tree watering invoices in a lump sum in September due to a previous invoicing error.

The **CPC** previously awarded the Tree Commission \$13,000 for the planting of Liberty Elms on Merrimac Street, the "Gateway" II project.

The September Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

Tree Warden

Total Street Trees Removed in 2018 is **89**.

To date, 35 trees have been removed in 2019.

In September these 5 trees were removed:

Plummer Avenue

13 Pine Hill

Mosely @ High

15 Rawson

78 High Street

JT will be calling Britt McLoy, 49 Marlboro Street, to tell him the City will remove the maple tree on Reilly Avenue. **CP** will follow up to manage the logistics of the donation and replacement trees.

There was discussion about 1 Upland Street. The oak tree, determined to be on private property, was removed, allowing the residents to build a renovation and they are now hoping to remove

the white pine tree. **LR** reported that during construction they are piling boulders and debris at the base of the tree and driving over the roots with large equipment which could damage the tree. **PB** reminded the Commission of the provisions in Chapter 12-195: Damage, removal and replacement of city-owned trees, which protect public street trees from removal, damage or destruction. **JT** and **LR** were encouraged to enforce that provision in this instance to protect City Property - the pine tree.

Planting

- Dig Safes were ordered for 48 trees on Sept 17 after locations for all trees had been found
- Liberty Elms were picked up Oct 3
- The Bigelow and Northeast Nursery trees were delivered Oct 7
- 39 trees are being planted the week of Oct 7
- 8 Liberty Elms on Merrimac Street which require a cement cuts for the tree pits and the cherry on School Street (the wrong variety was sent) will be planted the week of Oct 14.
- PO's have been sent to all vendors. The invoices for the purchase and planting of the fall trees will show up in the October Treasurer's report.

Grants/Donations

No report.

Education

AS showed a 2009 form he found at the RVCS for siting street trees. He is going to update the form, to include house roof exposure (relevant for future placement of solar panels), and hopefully have students canvas streets looking for good sites for future trees.

AS asked **JT** about the possibility of RVCS students renovating a trail in the City Forest which had been created around 1995 as an Eagle Scout project.

Community Outreach

Kim Kudym wrote a blog titled "Friends of Newburyport Trees Gives Facelift to City's Gateway" on 9/30/2019. It discussed the planting of 14 trees in the triangle at the intersection of Storey Avenue, Ferry Road and Harnch's Way.

After the fall planting has been completed, KK will write another blog entry on the Liberty Elms and the CPC grant for "Gateway II".

Old Business

PCI Synthesis

The **PCI Synthesis Agreement** was on the 9/30 agenda City Council agenda and was sent to Budget & Finance committee as expected. It is on the next B&F meeting agenda on Oct 15 at 6:30 (before CC meeting). Charlie Tontar (Chair, B&F) anticipates that it will pass easily. After that, it will go back to the Council for 2 readings, possibly on Oct 15 & 28. Once the City Council has accepted the gift, PCI Synthesis will send a check for \$40,732, which will be deposited in a new account. The Tree Commission will have until Fall 2021 to spend all the funds. This money will be used to plant approximately 63 trees in “Environmental Justice Areas”, such as elderly and low-income housing developments and wetlands such as the industrial park.

Changing Tree Commission

Andrew Soracco was confirmed as a full Tree Commission member at the July 15 City Council meeting.

Sue Brown has submitted her resume to the Mayor and will be on the CC agenda on Tue Oct 15. She should be confirmed as a full Tree Commissioner on Oct 28.

Janet Morris will submit her resume to the Mayor as an alternate this week.

New Business

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Taintor, Secretary

Next meeting: Wednesday, date, 2019 at 6 PM

Location: Department of Public Services, 16A Perry Way