

MINUTES Newburyport Tree Committee

2011-October 13

Tree Warden is Andrew Lafferty, Deputy Director of Dept. of Public Services (DPS)

Present: Hugh Kelleher (HK), Ed Taylor (ET), Dave Dylewski (DD), Jean Berger (JB), Paul Bevilacqua (PB), Jane Niebling (JN)

Absent: Sandee Liversidge, David Dyewski

Guest: Jeff Esche, Joyce Quinn

Meeting convened at 7PM

Location: Director's Room, Newburyport Public Library

Reading of the Minutes

From September 8, 2011 meeting

Treasurer's Report – JB

JB and PB met with AL Sept. 14 to talk generally about the different TC accounts and types of funds. JB and AL agreed on the procedure for dealing with invoices from the TC. All invoices must have a purchase order number. All projects must use "best business" practices. Verbal quotes are acceptable up to \$5000.

Javier is expected to invoice about \$2500 for last summer.

JB spoke with Donna O'Flaherty of the Newburyport Garden Club. The club would like to make a contribution toward street trees, possibly in the \$300-500 range. Maybe sponsor a tree downtown. Will propose something and submit to the club after meeting with planting committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance Update

ET met with Andrew Port (AP) of Planning Office. AP will try to have a close read, with marks indicating objections, done by Thursday, Oct. 20 and then meet with PB and ET on Friday, Oct. 21. If all goes well the O. will be submitted to City Council subcommittee and City Solicitor for review by the end of the calendar year.

About two weeks ago JB submitted a Press Release to the Newburyport Current and the Newburyport Daily News and it appeared the very next day. Gave next meeting date and invitation to public to attend/join. JB can do this every month. Should she include a phone number?

NEW BUSINESS

Kent Street

A meeting with the Mayor, Bob Cronin (City Councilor) and several tree committee members about some Kent Street street trees. Bob Cronin wanted the tree(s?) removed. DPW had graded sidewalk. One tree down. Two might go in, possibly as part of the spring planting. If the site is bad across the street might be a better opportunity.

TASK: Add site to "To be planted" list.

Is there a permeable material that we could support and start using around the base of street trees? JB will research and try to determine what if any product is available/makeable.

Grants

CPA update is due. Jean will provide information on how much money is left of the CPA money.

JN asked for suggestions for the writing of a grant to BIOLABS.

JE – Mayor has asked him to write a grant to the Mass DCR for a city tree inventory. The grant will suggest using the charter school and others for partnerships. Our current inventory is from NECC 2007 (about 1500 trees). A tree inventory must be updated every 5 years to be viable. Grant is due Nov. 1. Tree committee will start inventorying when we go out to prune two weekends in November.

Potential Partners: NECC, Stockbridge School (U Mass Amherst), Charter School. All collected info will be available to city. iTree software is the USDA standard.

HK's main concern is that the information be user friendly.

Actually inventory (assuming grant is granted) will start in the spring.

Tree Moving Project

TASK: JE will send Katie the list of the 53 sites that will be created by moving the trees.

Tree Care, 2011 and 2012

JE and DD have observed that bags are on last year's trees (2011) but not on the previous year's trees.

PB- We need more specific information from whomever does the watering.

TASK- Talk to AL and Tom Brann about the city taking over responsibility for tracking information about watering.

TASK: Put this on the agenda for the next meeting. Also want to talk with AL about the results of the pruning of the trees at the firehouse.

AL is expected to come to the next meeting. HK will try to postpone this until the Dec. TC meeting.

Spring Planting

Katie has met with Tom Brace (Charter School) about involving the students with the spring planting. New date for spring planting is Tues the 24th of April, 2012.

About 100 kids (grades 4,5,and 6) will participate.

There will be about 100 trees planted.

TASK: JN will submit a few new sites to planting committee

PB asks that budget submitted by JB for next meeting includes revenue.

HK plans to put in another grant for CPA money. That money comes in august.

Tree Hearing next week Thursday, 20th.

In the Children's Room, public library, OR at the Police Station (I'm not sure).

On 251 Merrimac street (On Oakland) a developer is concerned about sidewalk lift and would like to remove a large silver maple. AF will be there, also JE, ET, DD, JB, KH, HK. DD should talk with Andrew to find out what the procedure will be for the meeting.

PB- If the tree is to be removed we need committed money from the developer BEFORE the tree is removed.

Green Street

Katie spoke with AL about the repaving of Green Street. It won't happen until next year or year after.

JN moved that the meeting be adjourned. KH seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55PM

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 10 in the Director's room at the Public Library