



## *City of Newburyport Tree Commission*

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 13, 2022, 6:00 pm

The meeting convened at 6:06 pm.

**Tree Commission members present:** Sheila Taintor (Chair), Paul Knowlton (Vice-Chair), Marcia Edson (Secretary), Marilyn Cohodas, Paul Harrington (Alternate), Jamie Tuccolo (Tree Warden, ex-officio)

**Absent:** Scott Hanley

### **Reports**

#### **Tree Warden**

Jamie reported that crews are pruning again, and the list is long. The larger sized State Street pits have been dug and came out well.

Good news on the problem tree issue in the North End. The root issue has been resolved and the tree has been saved.

Sheila asked about the two old maple trees on High Street/Storey Avenue that are decayed, among the six red maples planted last spring, and when they will be removed. Jamie said once he receives an email from DOT confirming that they are in fact City trees, they will be added to the queue, maybe during the winter.

Sheila asked about the streets which are having sidewalks done next year. Paul K. has spoken with Jamie about that and will pass on the details. Jamie said we could pick spots for trees, mark them and he will dig the pits. Dig safes will be done before sidewalk is ripped up.

#### **Secretary**

The minutes of the September 8, 2022, meeting, were submitted. Paul Harrington moved to approve. Marilyn seconded. Unanimous approval.

#### **Treasurer**

Sheila submitted the report and added that all invoices have been paid. Report accepted.

#### **Fall planting**

Trees will be delivered on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Sheila and Paul K. will be at 59 Low St. to meet the truck, check inventory and check condition of trees. Sheila will send a list of the trees and locations.

Two trees will be planted on the Rail Trail near the FoNT sculpture by Jean Berger and Cris Miller. Two pits have been marked and dug at the corner of Toppans Lane and Low St. where trees will be planted next spring.

Sheila mentioned the rising costs for delivery, watering, planting ball and burlap trees, and the necessity to be cautious regarding the budget for FY24.

### **Tree Bag Collection**

Paul K. will rent a truck for Saturday. He and Scott hope to collect at least 60 of the 181 bags. Whatever they cannot collect, they will work on at the end of October. Sheila said Link House volunteers are available between 10:30 and 4:45 on Saturdays. If we had drivers and trucks, we could partner with them.

There was some discussion about the need for more oversight on the filling of the bags to ensure that all bags are filled to the top. Since both Plants and Pleasantrees and Coastal Landscaping submitted bids last year, one possibility would be to split the contract for next year. Paul H. suggested adding language to the contract that specifies that each bag be filled to capacity

### **Tree inventory of twenty-eight new trees**

Paul H suggested inputting the new trees on a laptop first, so that when Paul K. goes out to inventory the new trees, he would just have to photograph and confirm placement of the trees. When a species does not appear in the drop-down list, that species should be listed in the notes and Sheila will send it to Steve Lopez who will add it to the drop-down list.

### **Grants**

Final CPA Project Quarterly Report for Gateway Trees II due 10/15/22. Sheila will submit the report.

Howard Benevolent Society discussed Sheila's request for \$14,000 to purchase, plant, and water 20 trees for 2 years. An HBS board member called her the next morning to discuss a concern that had come up. She requested that the trees be "big trees." Sheila replied that the Tree Commission could commit to using HBS funds exclusively on tall trees. The board will discuss again at their next meeting and contact Sheila with their decision.

David Hult of Alternative Therapies Group II, Inc. contacted Sheila to offer the Tree Commission a donation based on the sales of their newest product, Wicked Tree. The company's offices are in Newburyport with dispensaries in Salem, Amesbury, and Salisbury. The company would give us \$.50 from each unit of Wicked Tree sold. They would provide a check to the Commission quarterly and thought the annual donation could potentially amount to \$3-5 K. Paul K. noted that their website lists donations to quite a few local organizations. Commissioners agreed that Sheila and Paul H. should initiate a meeting with Ethan Manning to explore how to best access the funds from this donation.

## **Community Outreach**

High School Internship - Paul H. reviewed the outline he submitted that included tasks and responsibilities for a potential student intern to the Tree Commission. Marcia suggested additionally that an intern might write a column for ACES in the Daily News, summarizing the experiences she/he had as an intern. Sheila suggested that the next step would be to reach out to the H.S. Counselor to get a better understanding of their scheduling requirements and expectations.

Tree Coalition Group – Ted Boretti extended an invitation to meet with other city groups focused on trees at 3:00 PM, Oct. 21 at Moseley Pines. Sheila will try to attend.

## **Tree City USA**

Commissioners should tally up volunteer hours to be submitted in the Tree City USA annual application that Marilyn is writing.

## **Social Media**

Twitter account - Marilyn was hopeful she could begin set up soon.

Motion to adjourn made Marcia, second by Marilyn.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marcia Edson, Secretary

Next meeting will be at 6:00 PM, November 10, 2022, in the Program Room of the Library