

Newburyport Tree Commission
Minutes December 8, 2016
Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library

Meeting Convened at 7:02 PM.

Tree Commission members (TC) present: Crispin Miller (Chair) (CM), David Dylewski (DD), Paul Bevilacqua (Secretary) (PB), Byron Getchell (BG), Jane Niebling (JN), Constance Preston (Treasurer) (CP), Sheila Taintor (ST), Kim Kudym (KK)

Members Absent: Wayne Amaral, Tree Warden and Deputy Director/Director of Operations Department of Public Services, ex-officio (WA)

Others Present:

Tim Heatwole, Landscape Architect volunteer 53 Hay Street Newbury; Edith Heyck; Newburyport Waterfront Park Manager; Elizabeth Petty, 57 Purchase Street; Amantha Moore, 10 No. Atkinson Street

Open time for Residents

Edith Heyck asked whether the TC would be available to consult with her from time to time relative to various tree related issues which might occur on Waterfront Trust property. The TC agreed to do so.

Alexandra Moore asked whether the TC would be able to contribute any money or materials to replace two memorial trees which had died at the Bresnahan School. The TC noted that they were very sympathetic to her needs, but that the TC does not have any money available for that purpose. The TC will encourage FoNT a non-profit organization which works closely with the TC to work with her to find the funds needed to purchase and plant and care for the trees.

Report of the Secretary

The Minutes of the November 10, meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Report of the Treasurer

The report was approved unanimously.

CP also presented a proposal which she and the Finance and Planting and Pruning Committees developed to request \$3,200 in FY 16 free cash to purchase and plant eight trees in the Spring 2017. The proposal was unanimously approved for submission.

Report of the Tree Warden:

The TW was not present but he submitted his report in advance of the meeting for consideration. JN noted that she had recently observed city crews removing trees on Orange Street. She was impressed by their professionalism and the quality of their work. She proposed speaking with them to gain more information about the selection of trees to be removed. She proposed to write a piece for submission to the newspapers to help others in the community to understand this thoughtful process. The TC agreed and encouraged her proposal.

December 2016

1. Tree Warden Summary for 2016.
 - 139 High Hazard trees have been removed this year.

- The most recent trees are;
 - Auburn St @ Greenleaf St
 - Beacon Ave #27
 - Cherry Street #17
 - Ferry Rd #22
 - Moseley Ave #2
 - Reilly Ave #7
 - Tyng St #25
 - 0 Non-High Hazard trees have been removed.
2. High Street – High hazard tree removal at two locations. Contacting residents.
 3. Forrester Street – Extra tree planted.

Committee Reports

Tree Regulations/ Tree Plan Committee

PB noted that the Committee had no report.

Planting and Pruning Committee

DD announced that the pruning/mulching days for 2017 will be Saturday April 22 and Saturday April 29. He also noted that because of decreased volunteer availability there will only be two trucks, thus we will need to rent or another truck or identify a volunteer or other source for a truck. After discussion it was agreed that **CM** would discuss with **WA** whether as agents of the City Commissioners would be able to operate a City truck if one were available.

The Commission also voted unanimously to authorize **DD** to order six additional smaller size vests for volunteers and Commissioners to use during their various volunteer activities. **DD** will work with **WA** to complete the purchase.

DD announced that a bid will be published for watering for 2107 from May 15-September 15 or longer if conditions so require as they did in 2016 given the drought.

Spring 2017 Planting: **BG** reported that sites have been selected and need only to be dig-safed to plant up to 20 trees. The number planted will be determined by the amount of funds available.

Gateway 1 Project: **DD** reported that no new action but the project is moving forward. Later in the discussion the **TC** unanimously agreed to discontinue this as a separate initiative and to merge it with the High Street Project.

Gateway 2 Project: **DD** noted that two trees had been planted at the west end of Merrimac Street close to the round-about. As previously reported space remains in that area to plant additional trees in that area when funds are available. There was no further activity.

Nock School Project

This project is inactive at this time.

High Street Project: **DD** reported that this project will be the major focus of the Committee in 2017. There are 110 sites for trees in a 2.3 mile section from Atkinson Common to the Newbury line.

T. Heatwole was present to review and discuss the proposal to plant at least 20 trees. Locations have been selected with the plan to ultimately planting over 100 trees over the next five years. The trees to be planted in 2017 will be planted in groups on both sides of High Street taking into consideration the overhead power lines in selecting trees. The planting of the trees in groups will also allow for more efficient watering.

The trees will be planted in various locations rather than beginning at one end of high Street and gradually moving other end. The project goal is to enhance the visual image of High Street as a gateway to Newburyport in a manner to maximize impact. Bromfield funds have been received to purchase trees for this project.

As noted above Gateway I will now be merged with this project for planning purposes.

Grants

JN did not have any new information to report. She will remain in contact with FoNT, and will update the **TC** on the progress of grant proposals submitted by FoNT alone, or in collaboration with, the **TC**.

Old Business

FY 18 Budget

CM, **CP** and **PB**, who form the Finance Committee, will develop a budget proposal for FY18 and submit it to the Commission for review and action at the January 12 meeting

Liberty Elm Tree Project

The opportunity to purchase 50 Liberty Elms at a cost of \$50.00 per tree was discussed at the November meeting. It requires that the **TC** commit \$2,500 before December 31. The trees will be delivered in late Fall 2019. They will be in the process of growing in the intervening period. The \$2,500.00 is available. The **TC** committed to raising the additional \$3,000 prior to the Fall of 2019 when the trees will be planted and the Spring of 2020 when watering will begin.

CM has been in contact with Lise Reid of the Parks Commission to determine if they would like to purchase some of the trees. If so, the cost to the **TC** would be reduced. **DD** assured the **TC** that he has locations for the 50 trees if they are all purchased for planting by the **TC**.

New Business

Tree Inventory

CM explained that the Tree Inventory only includes about one half of the city. There are 204 streets which are not included. The value of an accurate and well managed Tree Inventory for uses by DPS and others is substantial. This is high on the wish/need list of the Tree Warden.

It is estimated that it will require up to 300 hours of work to complete the inventory. Couple things on the minutes from the December 8th TC meeting.

After considerable discussion the **TC** members voted unanimously to volunteer their time to complete the inventory and then to maintain it in the future. Work will begin in the Spring when the trees begin to leaf out as part of the inventory includes a photo of the each tree.

CM given his professional experience in project management has volunteered to act as project manager for the tree inventory project.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Paul M. Bevilacqua, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday January 12, 2017 at 7 PM

Location: Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library