

Newburyport Tree Commission

Minutes January 12, 2017

Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library

Meeting Convened at 7:05 PM.

Tree Commission members (TC) present: Crispin Miller (Chair) (CM), David Dylewski (DD), Paul Bevilacqua (Secretary) (PB), Jane Niebling (JN), Constance Preston (Treasurer) (CP), Sheila Taintor (ST), Kim Kudym (KK), Wayne Amaral, Tree Warden and Deputy Director/Director of Operations Department of Public Services, ex-officio (WA)

Members Absent: Byron Getchell (BG)

Open time for Residents

No residents attended

Report of the Secretary

The Minutes of the December 8, meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Report of the Treasurer

The report was approved unanimously.

Report of the Tree Warden:

January 12, 2017

1. Tree Warden Summary for 2016.

157 High Hazard trees have been removed during the 2016 calendar year.
The most recent trees are;

- Chaisson Rd (4 dead trees)
- Dalton St #12
- Harnch's Triangle at Ferry Rd
- Hill St at cemetery (4 dead trees)
- Hunter Dr. @ #154 Low St
- Jefferson St #59
- North Atkinson St #1
- Pine Hill Rd #34 (2 trees)
- Woodland St #48 (2 trees)

0 Non-High Hazard trees have been removed.

2. High Street – six total high hazard trees have been identified. Tree removal at four of these locations will occur this week (1/9/2017). These trees represent many which have been dead for many years. The time and manpower is now available to address them.
Wayne Amaral, Tree Warden

Committee Reports

Tree Regulations/ Tree Plan Committee

PB noted that the Committee had no report.

Education Committee

ST reported that she has contacted the Director of the River Valley Charter School and the Pre K-8, STEM Coordinator of the Newburyport Public Schools to inform them about the 2017 poster contest for MA fifth graders sponsored by the MA DCR, the US Forest Service and the MA Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association.

Planting and Pruning Committee

Vests for Volunteer Use: **DD** announced that he had not yet ordered the six new vest approved for use by volunteers as he needed to clarify the source of funds. That was clarified by **WA** and **CP**. He will move forward.

Gateway II Project: **DD** said that there was nothing new to report.

Nock School Project: **DD** said that there was no activity on this project.

High Street Project (merged with Gateway I): **DD** reported that this project which is the **TC** major focus in 2017, will ultimately include up to 110 sites for trees in a 2.3 mile section from Atkinson Common to the Newbury line. In 2017, 20 trees will be planted as described in the December meeting Minutes. **PH** is developing the bids for the purchase of trees for this and other projects. Corliss, Northeast Nurseries, and Amherst Nurseries are amongst the organizations to whom bids will be sent.

Spring 2017 Planting: In **BG's** absence **DD** reported that this project is set to go with sites selected. In addition to planting 11 trees, there will be: five trees planted at the Mall; two on State Street; and, one at a site to be determined. Funds, for those seven trees will be donated by FoNT and other sources

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, developed a budget proposal for FY18 for review and action by the **TC**. The proposal was discussed at length and approved unanimously for submission to the Tree Warden.

Liberty Elm Tree Project: **CM** provided an update on the **TC** decision which was made at the December meeting to take advantage of the opportunity to purchase 50 Liberty Elms at a cost of \$50.00 each. As noted, the commitment required that the **TC** commit \$2,500 before December 31, 2016. **CM** followed up with Lise Reid at the Parks Commission to determine whether there was interest in partnering with the **TC** on this project with the **TC**. The Parks Commission has agreed to purchase half (25) of the trees and has committed \$1,250.00. Therefore, the commitment of the **TC** is now \$1,250 rather than \$2,500.

The trees will be ready for pick up for Fall 2019 planting. They will be in the process of growing in the intervening period.

Tree Inventory

CM briefly reviewed progress on the Tree Inventory project. As agreed at the December meeting, **CM** given his professional experience in project management, will serve as project manager for the tree inventory project.

New Business

Annual Review of TC Meeting and Operational Guidelines:

After discussion there was agreement to clarify the language regarding recording **TC** member attendance at meetings; as well as reiteration, as stated in the Guidelines of the expectation that only members of the **TC** will sit at the meeting table. Observers and guests are to be seated in the audience unless invited to join the **TC** members to explain or discussing an issue under consideration. There was unanimous approval of the minor language change. The revised Guidelines will replace those currently posted on the **TC** website.

Election of Officers for 2018

Officers unanimously elected include:

C. Miller, Chair

C. Preston, Vice Chair and Treasurer

P. Bevilacqua, Secretary

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Paul M. Bevilacqua, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday February 9, 2017 at 7 PM

Location: Third Floor Conference Room, Newburyport Public Library