

## **MINUTES OF NEWBURYPORT TREE COMMISSION**

July 13, 2017

Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library

**Meeting convened at 7:03 pm.**

**Tree Commissioners (TC) present:** Crispin Miller (Chair) (**CM**), David Dylewski (**DD**), Jane Niebling (**JN**), Constance Preston (Treasurer) (**CP**), Sheila Taintor (**ST**), Kim Kudym (**KK**)

**Commissioners absent:** Paul Bevilacqua (Secretary) (**PB**), Wayne Amaral, Tree Warden and Deputy Director/Director of Operations Department of Public Services, ex-officio (**WA**)

**Others present:** Katie Haried, 100 High Street, Newburyport

### **Report of the Secretary**

The Minutes of June 8, 2017 Meeting were unanimously approved.

### **Report of the Treasurer**

CP shared her report and announced that it balances with both City and DPS accounts. The report was unanimously accepted.

### **Report of the Tree Warden (July 13, 2017)**

#### **1. Trees Removed in 2017**

Year total to date: 70

The most recent trees are:

- Bromfield Street #8
- Columbus Avenue #22
- Columbus Ave #4
- Dawes Street #8 @ 50 Ashland St
- Essex Street #18 (2 trees)
- Federal Street #50
- High Street #40
- High Street #198
- High Street #279
- High Street #278
- High Street #379
- Hunter Drive @ #154 Low St.
- Jefferson Street #31
- Jefferson Street opp. #54
- Laurel Road #6 (2 trees)
- Pine Hill Road @ Hallisey Drive
- Reilly Avenue #11
- Turkey Hill Road @ Windwood Drive
- Tyng Street #35

**2. 0 Non-High Hazard trees have been removed.**

**3. Nock Middle School - 4 trees were planted by DPS and Cris Miller.**

## Activity Reports

### Planting and Pruning

**DD** reported that there are 4 active projects: **Fall 2017 Planting, Spring 2018 Planting, High Street and the Nock School.**

**Fall 2017 Planting.** **DD** announced that RFPs have been sent to 3 vendors and 3 contractors for the planting of 39 trees this coming fall. Those bids are due 7/29.

**High Street Project.** **DD** reported that Phase 2 of High Street in the Fall 2017 planting will take place in either September or October. In Phase 2 twenty trees (of the 39 trees to be planted in fall 2017) will be planted. **DD** is now working on site selections for Phase 3, with a projected planting in the Spring 2018.

**Nock School Project.** **CP** shared the plan for the planting of trees on the Nock campus. The eventual goal is to plant a total of 63 trees in several phases. Phase 1 will be 1 horse chestnut (at the front of the school near the southeast corner of the traffic circle), 9 cedars (along the slope separating the playing fields from the bordering properties to the east), 3 sugar maples (behind the school separating the school from the lacrosse/soccer field), and 3 red maples (in front of the school at the southwest corner). Phase 1 (with the exception of the horse chestnut) is unfunded, and **CP** will present a plan for paying for the purchase, planting and watering of these trees to the TC at the August meeting.

The horse chestnut tree was granted to the TC with funds raised by the Newburyport Choral Society in honor of Anne Frank. This tree will be planted in a prominent position in front of the school at a date to be determined in the early fall followed by a dedication ceremony. This is a wonderful opportunity for education and outreach.

**Watering.** Watering 109 trees this summer is proceeding smoothly. **DD** reported that we have learned it is important to water trees generously the same day they are planted, as well as adding them to the watering inventory. This will be incorporated into all future plantings.

### Grants/Donations:

We have received a \$12,000 grant from the Bromfield Trust and a \$13,000 grant from the CPA.

**JN** reported that she has submitted a letter of intent to the DCR to help fund our street tree inventory. The grant application is due 10/1.

The Morrill Trust has indicated interest in additional funding.

### **Process for accepting donations and related**

**WA** checked with the Mayor about a TC program for a Memorial Donation Program. The Mayor stated that any such program “should be operated by the Tree Commission”. Any placards “should be installed and maintained by the Tree Commission with no involvement from the DPS”.

The TC reviewed a packet of procedural materials prepared by Steph Pellegrini (TC volunteer) for receiving funds in honor or in memory of someone. A formal proposal will be presented for TC consideration at the August meeting.

### **Education**

**ST** will be following up with the the Elwells and Angela Bik about how the Tree Commission, Maple Crest Farms and the School District can work together to educate Newburyport children about the environment and become stewards of the environment in the future.

### **Community Outreach**

**KK** reported on ongoing community outreach: a recent article in the Daily News about the horse chestnut to be planted at the Nock School, with quotes from **CP**. **KK**’s most recent Branching Out in Newburyport blog post, “And Thirteen More Trees....” was viewed by 428 readers. **KK** mentioned the chance for more publicity at this upcoming Farmers' Market this Sunday. **KK** is working on her next blog post about trees on High Street – then and now.

### **Tree Inventory**

**CM** explained his detailed record keeping for volunteer hours, street and trees inventoried, which will be useful when applying for grants.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**FY 18 Budget.** FY 2018 and 2019 will be reflected in July’s financial statement.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Commission reviewed and discussed several Arlington door hangers and a gator bag tag, to see if and how we might modify them to use in Newburyport. **ST** will be creating some to share with the Commission to be viewed prior to our August meeting.

Katie Haried is interested in being an alternate to the Tree Commission. She will be sending her introductory letter and resume to **CM**, who will pass it on to the Mayor.

In conclusion, **CM** expressed tremendous appreciation for alternate Paul Harrington and all he does to help the TC. Paul created all the maps for the tree inventory program, recently sent out RFPs to 3 tree vendors and 3 planting contractors, and provides the City with all the results of those inquiries. He coordinates with the Tree Warden to send out the official contracts. These detailed and time consuming activities lie at the center of the TC's ability to operate efficiently.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Sheila Taintor, Acting Secretary

**Next meeting:** Thursday September 14, 2017 at 7 PM

**Location:** **Children's Activity Room**, Newburyport Public Library