

Newburyport Tree Commission
September 14, 2017
Children's Activity Room
Newburyport Public Library

Meeting Convened at 7:06 PM.

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

Others Present: S. Pellegrini

Open time for Residents

No residents were present.

Reports

Secretary

The Minutes of the July 13, meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved. **ST** was thanked for completing the Minutes as Acting Secretary for the meeting.

Treasurer

The Treasurer presented the Financial Report. After discussion the Report was accepted. Various formats for future reporting were discussed. It was agreed that the Treasurer will submit a detailed report monthly in lieu of presenting the report at the meeting. Commissioners will be expected to print their own copies for discussion at the meetings and come to meetings with prepared questions.

Tree Warden:

TREE WARDEN REPORT
August and September 2017

1. Trees Removed in 2017

Year-to-date total: 83

The most recent trees are:

- Ashland St #18
- Cushing Ave #10
- Essex St 3 & #5 #13 (5 trees total)
- Ferry Rd #56
- Hancock St #26
- Lime St #93
- Marlboro St opp. #19
- Myrtle Ave #9
- Wildwood Dr. #30

0 Non-High Hazard trees have been removed.

2. Nock/Molin Middle School - Four trees planted by DPS and Cris Miller in July and another 12 planted in August.

WA also reported that he is working closely with the contractor who built the Senior/Community Center to determine how many of the trees which were planted will need to be replaced by the contractor as they did not survive during the warranty period. It appears that there will be up to 21 trees replaced.

Reports

Planting and Pruning

Spring 2018 Planting: **DD** reported that in the Spring a total of 77 trees will be planted.

Forty will be planted on High Street, and 23 will be planted at various other street locations throughout the City. Additionally, 14 will be planted in the triangular area which is now being titled Gateway Front Gate Project (formerly the Gateway Project) in front of Famous Pizza. The trees presently located in this area will be removed as they are in poor condition.

Fall 2017 Planting: **DD** reported that up to 20 trees will be planted on High Street and 21 planted elsewhere throughout the city by mid- October.

Nock/Molin School: **CP** reported on the planning and planting, in cooperation with school staff, school volunteers and DPS staff. To date, 16 trees have been donated by Corliss Brothers to the schools and planted by DPS. Two additional trees have been donated by the Newburyport Choral Society and the Bodenrader family and will be planted in the next few weeks. The total scope of the project is to plant 77 trees in 4 phases. This is not a **TC** funded project, but as requested, the **TC** is providing the expertise and work of several of its members.

Extension of Green Street Project: **CM** reported that the CPC authorized use of the unspent funds which had been allocated for Green Street to plant additional trees on two blocks on Harris and Washington Street on either side of Green Street. **CM** also reported that the CPC was very pleased with the work of the **TC** with its grants, and encouraged the **TC** to submit additional proposals in the future.

Watering: **DD** reported that 112 trees were watered from mid-May until the week of September 10. That completes the watering season for the **TC**.

Grants/Donations

JN announced that the grant for \$12,000 which had been submitted to the Bromfield Fund has been funded.

Stephanie Pellegrini, a member of FoNT, who is working in cooperation with **JN** on the tree donation program, presented an update of the project. She is also working with others to develop the proposal for soliciting and accepting Dedication Tree donations. The amount of the donation was set at \$650. The

manner by which the honoree and the donor will be recognized is yet to be determined. Under discussion is the possibility of a plaque to be placed in a public location with the donor and honoree listed. Stephanie hopes to make a more specific recommendation as soon as the October 12 meeting

Education

ST reported that she had contacted all of the public school teachers at the RVCS and the Nock/Molin and appreciated the suggestion of contacting Immaculate Conception as well about the MA DCR annual Arbor Day Poster Contest for fifth graders across the state. To participate, individual schools hold their own poster contest, select their winning poster and submit it to the DCR. **ST** has suggested involving the Tree Commission in the judging of the entries, and subsequently displaying the best posters in Newburyport for residents to see.

Community Outreach

KK gave an update on the July 31 **Tree Talk** column in the Newburyport Daily News that highlighted the changes in our High Street tree canopy over the years. Kim requested that volunteers doing inventory send her pictures for her next blog entry. Almost 400 views were recorded for the July entry. Also, this year's First Annual Arbor Day celebration for pre-school children will be repeated next year. Additionally, Stephanie Pellegrini of FoNT will be planning a community wide Arbor Day event.

Tree Inventory

CM reported that the inventory is moving ahead well. All members of the **TC** have volunteered to be involved along with others in the community. To date, 1055 trees have been inventories and 337 hours of volunteer time have been involved. Over five teams of two/three persons have been formed and are working on this project.

Old Business

Update FY 18 Budget:

The Council and Mayor have allocated up to \$20,000 to the DPS to support **TC** projects in FY 18.

New Business

Door Hangers for Planting Information:

ST led the discussion of the proposed door hangers and information pieces which she had developed to be distributed to homes at which street trees are planted. The door hangers will provide tree care information along with information relative to impact of trees on the city from multiple perspectives. **ST** will submit a final proposal for action at the October 12 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Paul M. Bevilacqua, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday October 12, 2017 at 7 PM

Location: Third Floor Conference Room, Newburyport Public Library