



## *City of Newburyport Tree Commission*

### **Meeting Minutes**

10 January, 2019

Children's Activity Room  
Newburyport Public Library

Meeting convened at 7 pm.

**Tree Commission members (TC) present:** Crispin Miller (Chair) (**CM**); Constance Preston (Treasurer) (**CP**); Sheila Taintor (Secretary) (**ST**); David Dylewski (**DD**); Scott Hanley (**SH**); Jane Niebling (**JN**); Jamie Tuccolo (**JT**); Tree Warden & Deputy Director/ Director of Operations, DPS, ex-officio (**TC**); Lance Rickard (**LR**), Asst. Tree Warden

**Tree Commission members absent:** Paul Bevilacqua (**PB**)

**Public in attendance:** Tony Furnari (**TF**), Director DPS

### **Reports**

#### **Secretary**

The Commission approved the Minutes of the December 13, 2018 Meeting.

#### **Treasurer**

The December Treasurer's Report was accepted. There were no deposits or expenses during November or December.

**CP** presented the 2018 Financial Annual Report. **CM** explained that the **TC** prepares 2 annual reports each year: the first for the calendar year, which is used when applying for grants; and the second for the fiscal year, for the City.

**CP** explained that the **TC** income is derived from 3 sources: City (budget and free cash allocation), grants and donations. Our principal expenditures are for the purchase, planting and watering of trees. This year we also purchased tree bags and door hangers and paid the interns for their work on the inventory. This final money will be reimbursed by **MA DCR**.

#### **Tree Warden**

A total of 89 Street Trees were removed in 2018.

In 2019 to date, 13 trees have been removed:

- Greenleaf Street #11
- Hardy Street #36
- Phillips Drive # 16-18 (3 trees)
- Truman Way #2
- Hale Street (2 trees)
- Hill Street (5 trees)

Upcoming removes:

- Hill St Cemetery (4 trees)
- Hale St (4 trees)
- Arlington Street #19

1. **TF** explained the reorganization of Tree Warden responsibilities. **JT** is now the Tree Warden, and **LR** is the Asst. Tree Warden. **LR** will be attending Tree Commission meetings and reporting back to **JT**.
2. **LR** updated the **TC** on the status of trees which will probably be coming before us:

*1 Upland Road:* There are 2 street trees at 1 Upland that the residents wish the City to remove in light of future construction: an oak and a pine. Both trees are healthy, beautiful and old. **LR** has been pruning the oak regularly and attests to its health. The pine is also healthy. It recently lost a limb due to the recent 60+ m/h winds, and **LR** removed the stub. **TF** will refer the resident to the **TC** if they want to proceed with their request.

*16-18 Fair Street:* There is 1 very old beech on private land, which is a hazard. The residents want the City to take it down. **TF** is very concerned about the liability and does not want the City to take this tree down. **TF** will refer the resident to the **TC**.

### **Planting and Pruning**

**CP** reported no change in the status of Spring Planting 2019. There are still 62 trees on the list and funding for 58. There are presently 10 trees (excluding the 4 excess trees for the spring) on the fall 2019 planting list.

### **Inventory**

**CM** reported that the inventory is complete and software issues seem to be resolved. The database administrator will report periodically report Newburyport tree statistics on social media and the newspaper. Quarterly the inventory will be updates with tree removals and tree plantings.

### **Grants/Donations**

**JN** reported the success of the Adopt-A-Tree program. In 2017, 1 tree (@\$250) was adopted and in its second year, 2018, **Font** took in \$2000 for adopted trees.

The Leaf Sculpture has paid for itself already, earning \$4300.

**JN** has submitted Tree City and Tree Growth applications and will be submitting an application to the **CPC** by its 2/7 deadline.

### **Education**

**ST** reported that she and Kim Kudym will be working with the schools this year for the 2019 Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest sponsored by the MA DCR.

## **Community Outreach**

FoNT intends to send out statistics/facts of interest gleaned from the inventory to social media weekly and articles to the newspapers on a monthly basis.

## **Old Business**

### **Tree lists on website**

CM is still consulting others about the trees to be included in the *“Not Recommended Trees”* document, which will replace *“Invasive Trees in MA”* on the TC website.

CM reported on the feedback that Neil Doran (January Shady Talk presenter, and National Grid (NG) Merrimack Valley Forestry Supervisor) provided on our recommended tree list. He found our small trees list fine for areas with power lines for 2 reasons. Most of our recommended trees are (1) slower growing varieties, and (2) their maximum height of is the same as NG pole sets, which means that minimal trimming is required since the trees will not grow to a point that they overhang the lines.

### **Maintenance of Tree Pits**

SH reported that he had contacted the High School and will be in touch with the NHS Environmental Club about maintaining the tree pits of recently planted trees. TF will send him names and contact info for scout leaders in Newburyport so that he can reach out to them. It was also suggested that he contact Lisë Reid, Director of Newburyport Parks Department, who has a long list of volunteers helping maintain the City parks.

The TC discussed using distinctive colored bags (to distinguish them from trash bags used by residents) to collect organic matter and trash found in the tree pits. TF said to contact him with the locations of bags and DPS will collect them.

### **Guide to Newburyport Trees**

The *Guide to Newburyport Trees* document is a child of FoNT, which will donate it to the City. The *Guide* includes a list of acknowledgements, which should satisfy copyright restrictions.

At present, the *Guide* is being edited, with an anticipated publication date of Arbor Day, 4/26. The following quotes for printing it have been obtained: \$20 a piece for a minimum of 50 copies, 100+ copies @ \$15.50.

The TC will discuss how to dispense of the Guide at a later time.

## **New Business**

### **Election of Officers**

The Tree Commission unanimously elected Connie Preston as the Chair and Cris Miller as the Vice Chair for 2019 and appointed Cris Miller to be Treasurer and Sheila Taintor, Secretary.

### **Annual Tree Commission Calendar**

**CM** explained the online Annual Tree Commission calendar and thanked **ST** for creating it. **ST** will share the link to the google calendar with **JT** and **SH** so that they may edit it.

### **Meeting conclusion**

**JN** ended the meeting with an eloquent welcome to the new DPS Tree Commission team: **JT**, **LR** and **TF**; and a well-deserved thank you to **CM** for his leadership in creating a robust Tree Commission with many successes to its credit.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheila Taintor, Secretary

**Next meeting:** Thursday, Feb 14, 2019 at 7 PM

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