



City of Newburyport Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 6 pm

The meeting convened at 6:00 pm.

Tree Commission members present: Sheila Taintor (Chair and Secretary), Sue Brown, Marcia Edson, Scott Hanley, Paul Knowlton, Paul Harrington (alternate), Jamie Tuccolo (Tree Warden, ex-officio)

Public in attendance: Steve Lopez, MVPC; Mike Hennessey, Parks Department Manager

Shady News Talk #1

6:00-6:30 Speaker: Steve Lopez, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

Topic: Tree Inventory and MIMAP / mobil app / desktop app

Steve Lopez discussed both versions of MIMAP: the mobile app which is used for collecting data in the field, and the desktop app, which has more functionality and allows us to look at and sort the data.

Reports

Secretary

The Commission approved the Minutes of the January 13, 2022 meeting.

Paul Harrington moved, Sue Brown seconded, unanimous

Treasurer

The Commission accepted the January Treasurer's Report.

Sue Brown moved, Marcia Edson seconded, unanimous.

Tree Warden report

The Tree Warden did not have a formal report but answered questions. When the DPS workload has permitted, the City Arborist has been pruning low hanging canopy and doing tree and site evaluations.

Grants/Donations

Marcia Edson reported on the cordial and productive meeting on 2/22 that she and Sheila Taintor had with Nancy London, the City grant writer, to explore how the Tree Commission can use Nancy's services. Nancy is very open to searching for and writing

grants, with guidance from the Tree Commission. She made the following recommendations:

1. Be thoughtful about grants. Make sure project/grant request is a strong one. Consider collaboration with other city departments and commissions.
2. As Nancy serves all City departments, she needs adequate lead time for each request. She has access to professional grant databases and can seek out appropriate grants for us. She stressed the importance of timely communication, keeping her in the loop as we look into potential projects for funding. She might need only 2 weeks for a city trust fund grant, but a month for a state grant.

In response to Nancy London's request for information about past TC grants which would help her with future grants, Sheila forwarded her links to the TC grant folders from 2018-2021, along with a list of suggested grant sources that Jane Niebling gathered and are on our google drive.

Acknowledging Nancy's workload, Sheila asked how, if ever, the Tree Commission might engage an outside consultant. Nancy stated that it would only be possible if it were a line item in the Tree Commission budget and had been approved by the City Council.

Education

ACES Tree Plaques – Sue/Marcia

Ted Borreti is putting together a resource team to work with students on this project and hopes to have a Tree Commission member on the team. He hopes to find some students who would like to participate in the project at the Environmental Open House at NHS on 2/17, in order to move the project forward in earnest.

2022 MA DCR Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest – Sheila

Sheila will be introducing this year's poster contest to all the fifth graders at the Molin Upper Elementary School on Friday, 2/18. The deadline for schools to mail their entry to MA DCR is March 15.

Community Outreach

Marcia Edson volunteered to contact the Mayor's office to discuss the Arbor Day Proclamation.

Sheila has asked the Personnel Department to post that the Tree Commission is looking for several commissioners.

Paul Knowlton will set up a twitter account for us. We will all think about images to use and discuss them at our March meeting, and think about what kind of tweets and how often we will post.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Taintor, Chair / Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday, March 10 at 6 pm