



City of Newburyport Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2024

The meeting convened at 6:35 pm.

Tree Commission members present: Paul Knowlton (Chair), Bob Uhlig (Vice-Chair), Marcia Edson (Secretary), Paul Harrington (Financial Secretary), Marilyn Cohodas, Becky MacKnight (Alternate), Stephanie Pellegrini

Tree Warden: Mike Hennessey

Absent: Scott Hanley, Jean Berger,

Public comment

No public comment

Tree Warden report

23R Water St., entrance to Ferry Wharf – DPS Director Amaral has approved planting of 2-3 donated Red Oaks.

2 Spofford St. – Mike is working with the landscaper to remove 2-3 city trees and have donation made to FoNT for replacement trees on the resident's property for public benefit.

Kent St. Linden tree – Residents are interested in going through tree removal process. They are willing to replace that tree with 2 other trees in front of the residence.

Fruit tree planting – Mike attended an urban fruit tree class. Planting small fruit trees in the city might be worth considering at some point.

Stump grinder – DPS and Parks staff were trained in the use of the new stump grinder.

Arbor Day– Mike inquired on how DPS might support FoNT and the Tree Commission for Arbor Day. He suggested that DPS could provide a truck for collecting pruned branches. Steph will contact Jean about this since Jean is the point person for Arbor Day.

Secretary's report

Motion by Marilyn to approve minutes of the January 11, 2024, meeting, seconded by Paul Harrington. Minutes approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report

Paul reviewed the year-to-date financial report. He pointed out that we will need an additional \$6500 from FoNT to cover spring invoices for the projected planting of 60 trees this spring. Steph will follow through on that. In response to Bob's question about when tree orders are submitted, he explained trees are ordered in March, followed by planter invoices that go out in May and June.

Spring 2024 planting

Paul K reminded commissioners to submit possible tree sites for planting this spring. Orders for trees will be submitted in March. He raised the issue of timely Dig Safes and pits. Paul plans to start marking locations for Dig Safes soon and invited commissioners to join him.

Steph asked about the dead trees on the triangle bounded by Storey Ave., Harnch's Way, and Ferry Way, in front of Famous Pizza. She and Paul K will check to see if those trees need to be taken down and stumps ground.

Paul K. spoke about Jim McCarthy's generous contributions to tree planting and maintenance throughout Newburyport. Jim pays the full \$850 for each tree, in addition to traveling around the city to water the trees on his own.

Social Media update

Marilyn contacted Dave Rogers, editor of the Daily News and he suggested the Tree Commission provide a regular column of 600 words along with photos. Commissioners discussed possible topics and the importance of providing clear, concise information in a column. Steph suggested that Marilyn collaborate with Jane Neibling who has been submitted pieces for FoNT.

FoNT report

Steph reported that Jane is still working on the possibility of engaging high school students as volunteers.

Tree Inventory

Paul K announced that DPS staff will be taking over the Tree Inventory once the software issues are resolved.

New Business

Election of Chair and Vice Chair – Steph nominated Paul K for chair, second by Marcia, unanimous vote for Paul K as Chair. Steph nominated Bob for Vice-Chair, second by Marilyn, unanimous vote for Bob for Vice-Chair.

DCR Arbor Day Poster Contest – Marcia suggested that the Tree Commission contact Middle School teachers to see if they would be interested in continuing their participation in the DCR Arbor Day poster contest. Becky offered to contact Martha Trail, a 5th grade teacher, about the contest.

Old Business

Woodman Way – Becky reported that the proposed planting on Woodman Way is not feasible because it is a private road and not city property.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Marcia, seconded by Steph. Unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Next meeting will be at 6:30 PM, March 14, 2024, in the Program Room of the Library.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcia Edson, Secretary