



NEWBURYPORT TREE COMMISSION

February 6, 2019

Dear Community Preservation Act Committee,

Over the years the CPC has responded positively several times to grant applications from the Tree Commission. Because of your support we have been able to make significant plantings in specific areas – Green Street (35 trees) and High Street, including the Harnch's Way Triangle (105 trees). We seek to do the same on Merrimac Street.

In the last couple of years the positive response Tree Commission members have received from Newburyport residents has increased exponentially. We are finally *on the radar* in Newburyport, and I believe it is *because* of these massive plantings. Because of the visual impression these plantings have made, our ability to raise money from private citizens has increased significantly in the last year. Support from individuals is what will make our ability to continue secure, and I believe it was *your* support and the plantings that resulted that inspired the citizenry to support us in a more substantial way.

Yes, we are asking for money again. But no, we do not depend entirely on your support to make our vision a reality. In addition to Giving Tuesday and the occasional random donation we have three programs in place that are designed to encourage support from individuals: **Adopt-a-Tree** (a \$250 donation pays for a street tree), **Green-a-Street** (in which residents of a specific block which is already receiving street trees are encouraged to donate so that every potential site can be filled) and the **Recognition Tree** (in which donors can install an engraved "leaf" on a tree sculpture on the Rail Trail).

GATEWAYII – Merrimac Street

Funding will enable us to plant 25 trees on Merrimac Street – an important byway into Newburyport.

Enclosed you will find:

Tree Commission App. - \$13,250 for purchasing, planting and watering 25 trees

Attachment 1: Merrimac Street map with potential sites

Attachment 2: Project Budget

Attachment 3: Project overseers

Attachment 4: Planting Notification letter

Attachment 5: Letters of Support (2)

Thank you for this opportunity to present our proposal.

Newburyport Tree Commission



COMMUNITY PRESERVATION APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

City of Newburyport
Community Preservation Committee

Applications for funding are due by **Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.** with the Community Preservation Committee, c/o Office of Planning and Development, City Hall, 60 Pleasant St., Newburyport MA 01950.

Application Instructions:

- Applicants should file ten (10) paper copies and one electronic copy of the completed application and all accompanying documents.
- Applications should be stapled or clipped. Bound applications are not required.
- Please be mindful of extraneous paper – double sided copies are acceptable.

PROJECT NAME: GATEWAY II

PROJECT ADDRESS: Merrimac Street

MAP/LOT: _____

APPLICANT NAME: Newburyport Tree Commission

(Group or Committee Affiliation)

CONTACT PERSON: Jane Niebling

TELEPHONE/FAX NO.: 978-697-3567

ADDRESS: 45 Temple Street

 Newburyport, Ma.

EMAIL: jane.niebling@comcast.net

AMOUNT OF COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING REQUESTED: \$ 13,000

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION CATEGORY:

(Please check all that apply)

- Open Space**
- Historic Resource**
- Affordable Housing***
- Recreation**

* Applicants seeking Affordable Housing funds must attend a Newburyport Affordable Housing Trust meeting to review and discuss their application. This review must occur prior to the Community Preservation Committee deliberations.

PROJECT SUMMARY: Provide a description of the Project, including the property involved and its proposed use.

The Tree Commission (TC), working the Friends of Newburyport Trees (FoNT) would like to continue a project initiated in 2016 called **GATEWAY**. The project's mission is to improve and beautify the principal access roads into Newburyport by planting site-specific street tree species, carefully vetted by Tree Commission arborists, in the public right-of-way. Over 50 available sites have been identified by the Tree Commission on the 2 miles of Merrimac Street. The project includes site preparation, purchasing, planting, watering (2 years), pruning and mulching of trees. The requested grant will pay for the purchasing, planting and two year care of twenty five new trees.

PUBLIC BENEFIT*: Describe in detail the benefits Newburyport will receive from the Project and how the Project fulfills the Community Preservation Committee's Project Evaluation Criteria.

Previous **GATEWAY** projects (High Street and Green Street, both of which were supported by the CPC), have had three very positive results: significant contributions to the economic (real estate, tourism) and climactic (temperature, pollution control, air quality) well-being of Newburyport; an even better-looking Newburyport; *and* a quantum leap in the public awareness of public trees and the work of the Tree Commission. All these results have contributed to a substantial increase in the donations the public has made toward our efforts. We can't help but conclude that the public is very appreciative of the work that we, and those who support us, do.

Merrimac Street does not carry the same architectural gravitas (nor the National Registry designation) of High Street or Green Street. It reflects a more varied version of Newburyport with stretches representative of different periods of the City's past: handsome 18th century homes, remnants of Newburyport's 19th c. manufacturing economy, marinas, worker housing, a ball park, modern clean industry and commercial buildings. *It has quite a bit to say about what Newburyport was, and what it is today.*

TC members have located over 50 potential tree sites. These have NOT been vetted. A very conservative guess (made through experience) of the viable sites that would remain after vetting by the TC, the DPS, National Grid and residents is 30. We are eager to do a big planting on Merrimac street because it would, in addition to all the other tree benefits, help to unify the street visually.

Two years ago the TC bought 25 tiny Liberty elms from the Liberty Tree Society in Keene, NH (www.libertytreesociety.org). This is a hybrid bred to withstand Dutch Elm disease. It has the distinctive vase shape of the American elm. These trees are now ready to plant. We think planting 15 of these trees would go a long way to giving Merrimac a more cohesive visual appeal. Small trees would be selected where wires and other obstructions make tall trees unwise.

CONTROL OF SITE: Indicate whether the applicant owns or has a purchase agreement for the Project site. If the property is under agreement, include a description of the agreement and the timing and conditions. If the applicant does not have site control, explain.

All trees are owned by the City and all tree sites are in the public right-of-way.

FEASIBILITY: List all steps that may be required for completion of the Project, such as environmental assessment, zoning or other approvals, agreement on terms of any required conservation, affordability or historic preservation restrictions, and any other known issues. For projects that may impact abutters or the neighborhood, describe support or objections from those affected.

The Tree Commission has worked successfully with the DPS since 2002, planning and scheduling tree plantings of between 15-100 trees at a time. Jamie Tuccolo, the City Tree Warden and DPS Deputy Director, attends our monthly meetings, in addition to meetings with specific members to discuss specific issues. Since 2002 over 1000 public trees have been planted collaboratively.

A professional landscape architect and a certified arborist (TC volunteers) provide species and placement recommendations, taking into consideration zone hardiness, overhead wires, tree pit widths, adjacent trees and seasonal color. Tree species are selected on the basis of size, past successful plantings, with preference given to native trees.

The Tree Commission was able to purchase 25 Liberty elms two years ago, and these are now ready to plant. We have planted many other varieties of elms in the City (Princeton, Accolade, Zelkova) but these new hybrids most closely resemble the American elm, which once lined so many streets here and elsewhere. Funding for the Liberty elms is not included in the grant request.

All residents who are scheduled for a new tree are notified in writing and planting is contingent on their support. Residents are not required to care for the tree. With the two years of care we provide all new trees, tree survival rate is very high.

PROJECT TIMELINE: Describe the anticipated steps or phases for completion of the Project. Demonstrate whether the Project will be ready to proceed in the coming fiscal year.

1. NOW – 50 potential selected by TC members
2. Tree species selected and ordered as soon as funds are committed
3. Contracts for planting and watering submitted to prospective contractors
4. Sites vetted and approved by Dig Safe (Dig Safe approval lasts only 30 days.) Abutters notified and disputes resolved.
5. April/May 2020 Tree pits dug, soil amended if necessary and trees planted by private contractor
6. 2 years – trees fitted with Gator bags and watered for 2 seasons with annual mulching and pruning where needed.

FUNDING:

Amount of Newburyport Community Preservation Funding Requested:

B. **Amount of Newburyport Community Preservation Funding Requested:**
\$ 13,000

C. **Other Sources of Funding Available:** Without assistance the Tree Commission will continue to plant on Merrimac street two or three trees per season.

Some barren stretches of Merrimac Street



If the project involves public property, provide verification that the applicable public agency or department supports the project as presented and will oversee the project if funded.

- ❑ Historic resources include buildings, structures, vessel real properties, documents or artifacts that are listed or eligible for listing on the state register of historic place or determined to be significant in the history, archeology, architecture or culture of the city by the local historic preservation commission. If the project involves a historic resource, please provide evidence (date of listing on the state register or a letter from the Newburyport Historical Commission confirming its determination of significance) with the application that it meets these criteria

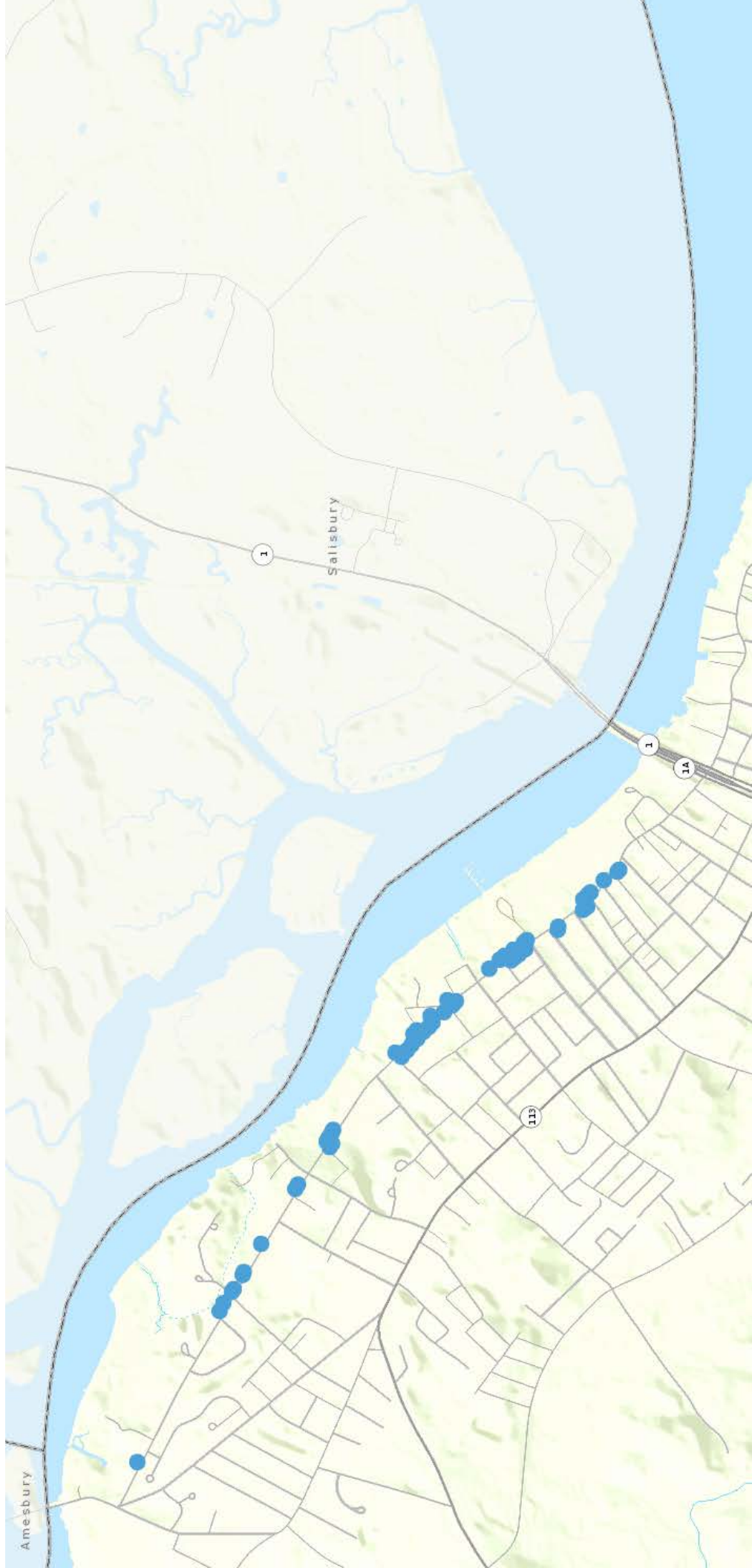
Include the following, if applicable and available:

- ❑ Architectural plans and specifications, for new construction or rehabilitation
- ❑ Maps, renderings, site plans
- ❑ Historic structures report, existing conditions report
- ❑ Names and addresses of project architects, contractors and consultants
- ❑ Budgets
- ❑ Letters of Support

Attach additional sheets as necessary to answer all questions.

YOU MAY BE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

For questions contact: Office of Planning and Development
Newburyport City Hall
cpc@cityofnewburyport.com
(978) 465-4400



Attachment #2 TC/CPC Grant application

BUDGET FOR PROPOSED 20 TREE PLANTING

Per your request, following is a list of estimated costs for purchasing, planting and caring for trees in Newburyport. These figures are based on the actual costs that we incurred for projects in the past three years.

Cost per tree

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Purchase | 12 trees | \$250 ea. (1.75"-2.0" caliper trees) |
| Purchase | 13 Liberty elms | \$0 |
| Planting | 25 trees | \$150 ea. |
| 2 years tree care | 25 trees | \$250 ea. |
| TOTAL | | \$13,000 |

Connie Preston
Tree Commission Chair, 617-230-4133

Attachment #3 TC/CPC Grant application

PROJECT CONTRACTORS AND CONSULTANTS

PROJECT MANAGER

Connie Preston – Tree Commission Chair
constancepreston@yahoo.com
18 Atwood Street, Newburyport

DESIGN:

Tim Heatwole – Urban landscape designer (retired), Certified arborist and TC consultant
tdheatwole@aol.com
53 Hay Street
Newbury, Ma. 01951

CERTIFIED ARBORISTS:

Dave Dylewski, TC member
Dave.dylewski@gmail.com
334 Merrimac Street, Nbpt
Byron Getchell, former TC member, consultant
bmgetchell@yahoo.com
14 Milk Street, Nbpt
Jean Berger, Friends of Newburyport Trees member, consultant
Greenjeans33@comcast.net
33 Middle Street, Nbpt.

TREES

Elms – Liberty Tree Society
11 Kit Street
Keene, NH
infor@libertytreesociety.org

Remaining Trees will be put to bid. Previously used:
North East Nursery 234 Newbury Street
Peabody, Ma. 01960
978.535.6551
www.northeastnursery.com

PLANTING

Plants and Pleasantrees
10 Aborn St.
Salem, MA 01970 OR
Szczechowicz Landscape Services, Inc.
421 Newburyport Pike
Rowley, MA 01969

WATERING

Lady Tracey Ann Mark Godfroy 80 AlisonDr.
Seabrook, NH

Attachment #4 TC/CPC Grant app Planting Notification Letter to Residents

Newburyport Tree Commission Street Tree Planting

Each spring and fall the Newburyport Tree Commission and the City of Newburyport DPS, endeavors to plant street trees at various sites throughout the City.

The Commission has selected a site to plant a Street Tree in front of your home. The planting will take place this year and will be within the City Right of Way (ROW) at the sidewalk or edge of roadway.

Trees will be a minimum of 1 ½" inch caliper (diameter) and at least 6 feet in height. The species selected is based upon an evaluation of the location and distance from residence, overhead wires, and other factors. The City will review the locations to ensure that they do not interfere with underground utilities.

After the tree is planted, the Commission will place a water bag (Gator Bag) on the tree, and will water the tree for the first two growing seasons, from May 1st to September 15th, on a weekly basis. We encourage each resident to also help water the tree, especially through dry periods of weather.

The tree will be planted by a professional contractor. There will not be any cost to you for the tree, the planting of the tree, or watering.

If you have any questions, please contact:
Scott Hanley, Tree Commission Member
T. 978.979.0731 Email scott92794@gmail.com





CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES
16A PERRY WAY
NEWBURYPORT, MA 01950
978-465-4463 EXT. 1701

ANTHONY J. FURNARI, DIRECTOR

JAMIE TUCCOLO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 5, 2019

Newburyport Community Preservation
Committee Newburyport City Hall -Planning
Office
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Committee Members,

The DPS gladly extends our support to the Newburyport Tree Commission in regards to this CPC grant request. We completely appreciate all their hard work and dedication and truly believe in their mission.

The Department of Public Services has worked closely with the Tree Commission and have collaborated with this commission for several years and found that this organization to be responsible and thorough in their research, implementation, and care for many street tree planting and maintenance projects.

The City of Newburyport is fortunate to have as partners the Tree Commission and the Friends of the Newburyport Trees. Both groups assist and sometimes lead projects that benefit our trees city wide and with their dedication and private support from others, we in Newburyport benefit greatly.

If you have any questions regarding their request, please contact me at 978-465-4463, extension 1730 or by e-mail at dps@cityofnewburyport.com.

Jamie Tuccolo

Deputy Director DPS
Tree Warden



Crispin Miller

1 Parker Ridge Way West, Newburyport, Ma. 01950

TO: Mr. Mike Dissette

February 5, 2019

Chairman – Community Preservation Committee

Dear Mr. Dissette

I am writing this letter in support of the Tree Commission's request for money to continue their Gateway Project by addressing Merrimac Street. Friends of Newburyport Trees (FoNT) has been intimately involved with the Tree Commission's efforts to beautify the main entrances into the City of Newburyport.

We will help the Commission to inventory existing trees, develop an overall plan, and site select locations and species. FoNT participates in the annual mulching and pruning of trees that have been planted within the last two seasons, and, as a non-profit, is able to solicit donations which then go toward the Tree Commission's City-wide planting of street trees. In light of the large number of trees taken down in 2018 (90) there is an urgent need to replace those trees and continue to rebuild the City's urban canopy.

Funding this request will help the Commission take a significant step toward replacing the removed trees. By continuing the Gateway Project, the Commission will make the biggest impact with the funds available.

We would appreciate your help by approving their request for \$13,250 to assist the Tree Commission in Gateway II (Merrimac Street). Thank you for your support in the past.

Kind regards,

Crispin Miller

President, Friends of Newburyport Trees

978-771-2871