

# NEWBURYPORT TREE COMMISSION 1

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

JULY 11, 2013- APPROVED Minutes - Secretary for this meeting is ET

### Meeting convened at 7:04 PM in the Newburyport Library Children's Room

#### Tree Commission members present:

Hugh Kelleher (HK) (Chair), Ed Taylor (ET) (vice-chair and secretary), Paul Bevilacqua (PB) ,  
Dave Dylewski (DD), Byron Getchell (BG), Paul Harrington (PH)

**Absent:** Sheila Taintor (ST)

**Also Attending:** Warden Andrew Lafferty (AL), Jeff Esche (JE).

#### Reading of the Minutes for the June 13th, 2013 meeting

Approved unanimously as amended (motion by: PH / seconded by DD)

#### Treasurer's Report prepared by PH

Reviewed and approved (motion by: DD / seconded by BG)

Update: PH and HK are working with the City Auditor's Office to have City Council approve the final dispersal from the Insurance Fund

## OLD BUSINESS

### 1.) Ordinance update

No discussion.

### 2.) Membership and volunteers project update

Seats (2) for official alternate members are unfilled.

**TASK\*:** Each member is urged to network for interested candidates either to help as needed or become full members.

### 3.) Unauthorized tree cutting or damage - updates

PESTS – there is a gypsy moth infestation at locations around the city including at Highland Cemetery and on High Street

**TASK\*:** Look for Red Oak trees with worm tents and/or signs of pest stress.

### 4.) Spring planting update

DD, BG, and ET walked the length of Green St. using the existing Haried/Liversidge plan. Thirty eight possible location were identified and about 15 others were deem implantable mostly due to proximity of underground utilities.

There are an additional 12 trees that may be sourced from National Grid and a local developer.

**TASK\*:** AL is in contact with the developer to secure the trees he is providing.

### 5.) CPA update

PH (with input from PB) has drafted a request for an extension.

**TASK\*:** HK, who wrote the grant application, will sign and send (mail and email) to Kate Newhall Smith, CPA Co-ordinator, in the Planning office.

\*NOTE: Include name of person doing the TASK and estimated DATE it will be done.

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Newburyport Tree Commission

# NEWBURYPORT TREE COMMISSION 2

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

### **6.) Tree watering project update**

Report from Jeff Esche (Classic Companies): the month of May had about nine inches of rain and two complete watering by Jeff. He applied organic material to all trees planted from 2010 to present. He mulched approximately 100 trees.

**TASK: Jeff Esche will continue watering and mulching per his contract.**

### **7.) Review of planting projects:**

#### **A.) Green Street Parking Lot (Mayor's project)**

Target Construction was awarded the contract. The project was designed by DCI (Steve Sawyer), reportedly with the help of a tree person they hired. See last month's minutes for a TreeCom review of their list.

BG sent a list of acceptable trees to AL. However, the contract was let out with the original landscapers list which will have to be modified.

**TASK: AL and BG to meet with Planning Office and contractor to reconcile the lists.**

#### **B.) GREEN Street (see also #4 above - Spring Planting)**

DD now has a very preliminary plan

Details that need addressing include species selection, budgeting, Dig-Safe evaluations, all with the goal of doing the work for Spring Planting 2014. There is a CPA grant for funding (see Item 5 above) and AL says there may be Chapter 90 funds (road repair and repaving sidewalks) available.

AL provided a map of Green St. showing sewer and water drainage details.

**TASK\*: DD to convene the Planting & Pruning Subcommittee (DD, BG, ET) and , with AL, plan for the full scope of the project.**

#### **C.) City Tree Nursery**

Report from Jeff Esche: of the 52 trees originally planted there are twenty five trees showing life. None of the Arbor Day Maples survived but might be replaced by the AD Foundation.

Jeff says that despite the fact that May was a very hot month the soil is holding water. Also it is very rocky even though it was tilled before planting.

He suggested that before planting any other area we could dig a post hole in the area adjacent in order to evaluate the layers of soil and gravel. Then use a "power rake" (aka a Rake Hound) to gather up the rocks. And then till and amend the area.

**TASK\*: Discuss and seek solutions at the next P&P meeting (August date TBD). Get information about the Arbor Day warranty.**

### **8.) Tree calls - evaluations update**

Report by DD: there were 7 calls in June. He made on site evaluations and submitted them to AL at the DPS.

**TASK\*: This work is ongoing.**

### **9.) Tree requests: update**

The plan is to plant 20 trees in the spring of 2014.

DD is asking for help in identifying and qualifying new planting sites. He has 20 sites as of now. He would like to have a flexible selection of sites for varying species.

**TASK\*: All members and interested supporters should ID some sites and report them to DD.**

### **10.) City Website**

The start up date was to be July 15<sup>th</sup>, however, AL reports that the design is not yet finalized.

**TASK\*: AL is monitoring the efforts of the design group.**

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1.) DPS Tree Work Annual Report

DD suggested that it would be useful as a planning and historical tool to have a yearly report on the number of DPS plantings and removals, and pruning done throughout Newburyport every year.

**TASK\*: AL agreed to compile such data and add it to the yearly DPS Report that would be presented in April 2014.**

### 2.) TreeCom Secretary

There was a discussion about how to fill the role of recording secretary for each meeting. No one expressed interest in taking it on or even having a rotation each month.

ET suggested that doing the minutes would be easier if the secretary had a laptop computer and was able to take digital notes during the meeting. It was reported that other commissions pay a person to fulfill this job.

There was no consensus on how to solve the problem. ET will continue as Secretary for the time being.

**TASK\*: Revisit this issue at the next meeting. Find out how other Commissions handle it.**

### 3.) Update from Tree Warden Andrew Lafferty

Tree Inventory Grant - has been extended to the end of 2012. There is a need for a computer application for an iPad (designed by Merrimac Planning Authority) and AL may hire a local person to implement it.

School Street Claim - is not resolved.

Market Street - work has been rescheduled for Fall 2013

The Dalton Club - has decided to keep the State St. tree and work around it.

Federal Street - today a car ran into a small street tree. Tom Brand will assess.

Jefferson Street - to get sidewalks and paving. Also trimming to raise the canopy.

**TASK\*: TreeCom P & P Subcommittee will develop planting recommendations for Jefferson Street.**

**Adjournment at 8:25 pm**

**Next meeting: August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Location: Library Children's Reading Room**