

NEWBURYPORT TREE COMMISSION

Monthly Meeting Minutes

AUGUST 8th, 2013- APPROVED Minutes

Secretary for this meeting is ST

The meeting was convened at 7:00 in the Newburyport Library Children's Room.

Tree Commission members present: Paul Bevilacqua (*PB*) (acting Chair), Dave Dylewski (*DD*), Sheila Taintor (*ST*) (acting secretary), Byron Getchell (*BG*)

Absent: Hugh Kelleher (*HK*), Ed Taylor (*ET*), Paul Harrington (*PH*), Tree Warden Andrew Lafferty (*AL*)

Also attending: Steve Harrison, Rowley; Jerry Mullins, Newburyport

Minutes from the 7/11/13 meeting

Approved unanimously pending the correction of three typos (motion by: BG / seconded by: DD)

Financial Report

PB suggested updating the heading on line 15 from *Newburyport Tree Committee Fund* to *Newburyport Tree Commission Fund*.

Report approved unanimously (motion by: BG / seconded by: DD)

Old Business

1) Membership and volunteers project update

Through discussion we learned that the process for each of us becoming a Tree Commissioner had been different, and discussed instituting an informal procedure to recruit and interview potential candidates for the Tree Commission.

2) CPA update

There was no information on this. It will be carried forward to the 9/12/13 meeting.

Task: PH will report back on the status of the grant extension.

3) Tree watering

According to Jeff Esche (email), tree care visits are as usual. The weather has been good for the trees and they're mostly doing OK.

4) Tree Nursery

ST reported on the status of the Tree Nursery, based on her observations and the information submitted by Jeff Esche. Both observed the evidence of rabbits nibbling in the nursery. In summary,

- only 1 out of 10 red maples shows any life (but the stalk is broken and it's leafing at the ground)
- 9 out of 10 zelkova are doing well (1 appears dead)
- 6 out of 10 honeylocust doing well
- 3 out of 4 sargent crabapples okay (1 completely broken off)

- 1 out of 4 Washington hawthorns are okay (2 leafing at the ground with dead or broken stalks and 1 disappeared)
- no surviving white dogwoods (out of 4)
- 1 out of 4 goldenrain good (1 disappeared, 1 looks dead, 1 broken)
- 1 out of 2 American elms looks good (other has 2 trunks) It was suggested to remove one trunk and let the other take over.

The need to have soil samples taken was discussed and approved unanimously.

The need for advance prep for further planting was discussed.

Task: ST will check on the Arbor Day warranty (how long it lasts) and see about sending soil samples to the extension service.

5) Transplanting update

In the absence of AL and Jeff Esche, there was no report made.

6) Green Street Parking Lot update (AL & BG)

No new information was available. BG had submitted a list of acceptable trees to AL prior to the 7/11/13 meeting, but no one knew whether the list originally submitted for the contract had been modified.

7) Planting & Pruning Subcommittee (DD)

Dave reported that the planting of 12 trees has been pushed back to the fall, when they will be planted by the Mayer Tree Service (hired by National Grid). The subcommittee is going to make a census of tree mortality spanning at least the years 2007 to present. The full Commission agrees that information about the types of trees and their planted location could help guide future planting decisions. The list will include trees that are dead on site, have been removed by the City, or have been removed illegally.

TASK: DD will make a format for the list. Members with planting history information should share it with Dave.

8) Green Street (DD)

The Planting and Pruning subcommittee (DD, BG, ET, ST) will be convening shortly to flesh out the details for the planting. It will be necessary to knock on doors to ask permission, consider where tree pits can be placed, do the DigSafe.

9) Tree calls - evaluation report (DD)

Dave has made 7 evaluations this month. There are several trees which need to be removed and have been added to the list, as well as others which need pruning.

10) City website

Due to AL's absence, there was no update on the status of the City website, and when we could start working on the Tree Commission page.

New Business

1. Tree Commission minutes

There was discussion about the need for timely minutes to help Commissioners know what happened

in the event they miss a meeting, and for absent and present Commissioners to follow up on actions to be done before the next meeting.

“As of the August 2013 meeting, draft minutes of the meeting will be submitted by the secretary within 6 days.”

Approved unanimously (motion by: DD / seconded by: BG)

2. Pest Presence / Control

ST brought up the question about whether the Tree Commission should be educating the public about tree pests. It was felt that this is one of the responsibilities of the Tree Commission. As an initial step, DD will contact Tim Lamprey of Harbor Gardens to see if he can help disseminate vital information about pests in his weekly column.

3. Visiting Resident’s Point of Interest

Mr. Jerry Mullins raised his concern with the invisibility of the Tree Commission page on the City website. He spoke passionately about the need for it to be possible to find the Tree Commission page on the website.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 (motion by: DD / seconded by: BG)

Minutes submitted by Sheila Taintor

Next meeting: **Thurs, September 12, 7-8:45**
Room reserved at 6 for hearing, if necessary.