

# NEWBURYPORT TREE COMMISSION 1

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 26 , 2013- **APPROVED** Minutes  
Secretary for this meeting is ET

**Tree Warden is Andrew Lafferty**, Deputy Director of Dept. of Public Services (DPS)

**Meeting convened at 7:05 PM in the Newburyport Public Library Children's Room**

**Note:** Longtime chairperson Hugh Kelleher has resigned his post. His resignation was accepted by Mayor Holaday. Tonight's meeting is chaired by the Vice Chair Ed Taylor (ET). New business (below) includes the election of a new Chair.

**Tree Commission members present:**

Ed Taylor (**ET**) (vice-chair and secretary),  
Paul Bevilacqua (**PB**) , Dave Dylewski (**DD**), Byron Getchell (**BG**),  
Paul Harrington (**PH**), Sheila Taintor (**ST**)

**Absent:** none

**Also Attending:** (check box) Tree Warden Andrew Lafferty (**AL**), resident Jeff Esche (**JE**), and resident Elizabeth Petty (**EP**).

**The Minutes** for the August 8, 2013 meeting were read and approved unanimously as amended. **Treasurer's Report** prepared by **PH** with formatting improvements. It was read, discussed and accepted unanimously.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### 1.) Ordinance update

No update

**TASK: ET** is making a list of items for consideration as Tree Warden's Regulations.

#### 2.) Membership and volunteers project update

Former Chair **HK** plans to apply for one of the two unfilled Alternate Member seats. Also there is one full membership seat remaining to be filled.

**TASK\*:** The search by all current members for potential volunteers is ongoing.

#### 3.) Tree evaluations

**DD** has received 4 calls for evaluations in the past 30 days.

**DD** has received 4 calls for evaluations in the past 30 days. No illegal cutting events reported.

**TASK\*:** Response by **DD** to evaluation requests is ongoing. Results of his on site evaluations are sent to **Warden AL**.

#### 4.) CPA grants

Update by **AL** and **PH**:

**a.)** the CPA Grant for Historic Preservation is covering the cost of the City's seasonal street tree watering program for young trees;

**b.)** the CPA Grant for the Green Street Planting Project is still fully funded pending the beginning of the work. (see item #6 below)

#### 5.) Tree watering project

**Classic Companies** is doing the work using the mobile watering tank. The work is monitored by **Warden AL**.

**TASK:** At the October meeting, **JE** will give a detailed update on the scope of the work done.

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

NEWBURYPORT TREE COMMISSION 2  
Monthly Meeting Minutes

**6.) Review of planting projects:**

**a.) Green Street**

**DD** and the **Planting & Pruning Subcommittee** will have a finalized tree list ready to present to potential contractors. The latter will order the trees in December.

**DD** is getting volunteer help from resident **Elizabeth Petty** who attended tonight's meeting.

**TASK: DD** will meet with **Warden AL** in mid October. Date TBD.

**b.) Crow Lane Nursery**

Update by **ST**. Attrition has been significant primarily due to poor soil and animals. The Locust trees are doing well. The Commission and Warden all agree that the project should continue. A nearby plot with better soil will be need to be identified by digging and soil testing. Also, better pest deterrents must be used. Alternative growing methods such as containers or Missouri raised beds will be researched.

**ST** requested additional volunteer help to do the work.

**TASK:** Planting and Pruning Subcommittee will find ways to enlist more volunteer help.

**7.) Tree requests: update**

No update.

**8.) Report on the rebuilding of the Green Street Parking Lot.**

**AL** will present details at the October meeting.

**9.) City Website**

The new site with a page for the TreeCom is supposed to be up on Friday Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>. Details to be announced.

**TASK: ET** to get for **AL** a copy of the Mission Statement and past meeting minutes.

**10.) Recording Secretary position.**

The acting secretary, **ET**, would like to pass the job to another member. After discussion, no volunteers came forward. A motion to share the duties on a rotating basis (each member doing it twice a year) could not obtain a second. This may be the standard procedure of some other Commissions.

For September, **ET**, the Vice Chair and acting Secretary, agreed to take the minutes (of this meeting.)

**PB** agreed to take the October minutes.

Most members want the Commission to explore the idea of hiring a person to do this work. Visitor **EP** said that she knows of a person who does this for several organizations.

The issue will be revisited at the November meeting.

**TASK: ET** will contact that person to see if the idea is feasible and affordable.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1.) Election of a new Chairperson to replace HK.**

After discussion of the possibilities and scope of the work, **ET** placed his name in nomination, seconded by **PB**.

**Mr. Taylor** was elected to be Chairperson by unanimous vote. The length of term is until the Jan. 2014 meeting when the annual election shall be held.

**2.) Election of a new Vice Chair to replace ET.**

Member **Paul Harrington** was nominated by **PB** and seconded by **DD**.

**Mr. Harrington** was elected to be Vice Chair by unanimous vote. The length of term is until the Jan. 2014 meeting when the annual election shall be held.

**TASK: ET** will inform the Mayor' Office about the outcome of the elections.

NEWBURYPORT TREE COMMISSION 3  
Monthly Meeting Minutes

**3.) Tree Stewardship Training Session for 2013**

**JE** reminded the Commission that the state **DCR** is again offering their two day training session on October 25 and 26 (Friday and Saturday). Any citizen interested in learning more about urban tree care can attend. Cost is very low.

**TASK:** **JE** will email members the details and application URL's.

**Adjournment at 8:45 pm**

**Next meeting: October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013      Location: Library Children's Reading Room**

**NOTE** that October 17th is the THIRD Thursday of the month.