

Newburyport Tree Commission

Minutes January 9, 2014

Children's Activity Room Newburyport Public Library

94 State Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Meeting Convened at 7 PM

Members present: E. Taylor (**ET**) (Chair), P Bevilacqua (Secretary) (**PB**), D. Dylewski (**DD**), P. Harrington (Vice Chair and Treasurer) (**PH**), H. Kelleher (**HK**), S. Taintor (**ST**)

Absent: (**BG**) Byron Getchell, (**AL**) Tree Warden and Deputy Director of the Department of Public Service, ex-officio

Others Present: Jeff Esche (**JE**) vendor/volunteer

Report of the Secretary

The Minutes of the December 11 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Report of the Treasurer

The Commission voted unanimously to continue to have all grants and other funds reported by the Treasurer if the information is available and the funds are being used to address projected germane to the purposes of the Tree Commission as outlined in Chp. 12, Article VI 12-172 of the Code of Ordinances.

The report of the Treasurer was reviewed and unanimously approved.

Regular Reports by the Tree Warden

The Commission voted unanimously, subject to the agreement of the Tree Warden, to add a verbal report from the Tree Warden to the agenda of each meeting. The purpose of the report will be to allow the Commission to regularly and systematically receive reports, and when appropriate, provide advice relative to activities conducted and planned by the Tree Warden, consistent with the purposes of the Tree Commission.

Election of Commission Officers

The Commission voted unanimously to hold its annual elections each January for Commission Officers. Special elections to fill vacancies will be held as needed.

ET and **PH** were nominated and elected unanimously to continue as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. **PH** and **PB** were similarly nominated and elected as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

Sub-Committee Reports

- **Spring/Fall Planting**

DD indicated that to date 18 trees had been planted in FY 14. Watering and tree care will need to be provided for these trees and the 25 trees transplanted in FY 13. Additionally, care will be needed for a limited number of special case trees which were planted prior to FY 13. The Commission also agreed it believes that the Commission is responsible for the watering and care of the trees planted in the Green Street parking lot.

- **Green Street Planting**

DD reported that the recommendations for bids were submitted to Andrew Lafferty during a meeting on January 8. The December 15 deadline set by the Committee was not met for various reasons related to incompatible schedules and weather related issues. Bids are due to be opened on February 20. At that time it will become clearer as to how many trees can be planted with the available \$20,000 CPA grant.

The bid was developed using a planning assumption of 16 trees in the prime group and 14 in the secondary group. The latter will be implemented when funds are available. The time period for planting will be April 15-June 1. It remains unclear whether Chapter 90 funds will be available to supplement CPA funds. **DD** and others will pursue these possibilities in cooperation with Andrew Lafferty.

- **Planting, Education and Pruning**

DD reported that planning was moving ahead for work with the River Valley Charter School, grades 4-6, for siting trees for future planting/transplanting. Draft forms were distributed for review which will be used by the students to complete their siting review and to identify heritage trees. **DD** described the program to be presented to the students on February 5. Substantial resources have been made available to **DD** and his committee by the University of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, and the University of New Hampshire.

DD reiterated that community education and placing the right tree in the right location were the overriding goals of the activity.

- **Nursery**

ST submitted a proposal for the Nursery for discussion. She had developed the proposal in collaboration with **AL**. **ST** used the newly approved budget planning forms for part of her proposal. There was substantial discussion of the purposes of the Nursery, the costs of development, and the sources of revenue to fund it initially and

to maintain it on an annual basis. **ST** will submit the narrative statement of purpose and value of the project with the update at the February meeting.

The Commission thanked **ST** for all of her work and agreed to continue to support her and other members of the Commission in refining the proposal. There was some thought that this might be implemented as early as the Spring of 2014. The item will be on the agenda for consideration at the February 13 meeting. It is hoped that this is a project that the Mayor might support with available funds in FY 14. **PH** volunteered to work with her further refine the proposal.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Tree City USA: (**ET**) notified the Commission that an application had been submitted for the 18th consecutive year. He thanked members of the Commission for their input and thanked **PH** in particular for his offer to back up **ET** on various components of the report if needed.

Tree Commission Budgets for FY 14 and FY15

The Tree Commission did not receive a budget allocation from the City for FY 14. It is hoped that prior to the February 13 meeting the City Council and Mayor will have approved the creation of a Revolving Fund.

Tree Evaluation Requests

(**DD**) reported that no tree evaluations had been requested since the last meeting.

Update on Tree Inventory

(**JE**) a volunteer and owner of Classic Companies was present. He is conducting the Tree Inventory for the Tree Warden. He reported that to date he had inventoried, (which he described as a quick and dirty analysis), 945 trees, mostly in an area bounded by Marlboro, Kent, High and Water Streets. He reported that he had recommended: the removal of over 30 trees and that a few of these had already been removed; and, 86 for service within six months, (which may include some of the over 30 recommended for removal).

Additionally: 204 received a "Most Likely Failure" Risk Assessment identifying a part of the tree that is in the process of failing and may be a hazard to property or life; 215 trees did not need service (though in some cases there is a fault, often cavities, for which there is no service species information); and, 509 Asian Longhorned Beetle Hosts - Norway, Red, Sugar and Silver Maple 44 Emerald Ash Borer Hosts Green and White Ash. (**JE**) also

recommended the transplanting of young trees from under wires where appropriate. There was some Commission agreement on this latter point. It might be the basis of a separate proposal. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul M. Bevilacqua, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday February 20, 2014 at 7 PM

Location: Newburyport Police Station, 4 Green Street