

Newburyport Tree Commission
Minutes January 14, 2016
Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library

Meeting Convened at 7:06 PM.

Tree Commissioners (TC) present: Crispin Miller (Chair) (CM), Paul Bevilacqua (Secretary) (PB), Byron Getchell (BG); Wayne Amaral, Tree Warden and Deputy Director/Director of Operations Department of Public Services, ex-officio (WA), Ed Taylor (ET), Sheila Taintor (ST) Jane Niebling (JN), David Dylewski (DD)

Members Absent: Paul Harrington (Vice Chair and Treasurer) (PH)

Others Present: S. Coolidge

Open time for Residents

No residents asked to speak

Report of the Secretary

The Minutes of the December 10 meeting were reviewed. All members present at the December 10 meeting voted to approve. .

Report of the Treasurer

PH, the Treasurer's was absent and a report was not submitted for review. It will be addressed at the February meeting.

Report of the Tree Warden (WA): January 2016

1. Tree Warden Summary for 2016.
 - 0 High Hazard trees have been removed this year.
 - The most recent trees are;
none
 - 0 Non-High Hazard trees have been removed.
2. DPS Tree Crew Supervisor Vacancy – Still vacant, interviews scheduled for the week of January 18.
3. 2016-2017 Budget. Submitted free cash request for \$10,000 for additional tree planting and \$9,000 for EAB spraying. (still waiting on status of this request from Mayor's Office)
4. Attended meeting with PB and ET regarding the preparation of the Tree Regulations. Will meet again later in month to start preparing this document.

Committee Reports

Education Committee: ST reported that she had met with the appropriate NHS individuals. It appears that the TC will not be able to meet the supervision requirement of

the NHS internships. **ST** will continue maintain the contact to determine if any mutually beneficial opportunities for student participation develop in the future.

Tree Regulation Committee: As noted in the Tree Warden's report, the Committee composed of **WA, ET, PB** met to begin planning. The authorization to develop Regulations and the process for development, change, and implementation of Regulations was discussed in relationship to the Newburyport Code of Ordinances Chapter 12: Article VI; Section 12-177. Future meeting dates have been set.

Planting and Pruning Committee

DD submitted an overview of proposed future projects, including anticipated funding sources and **TC** coordination/advocacy responsibilities.

Newburyport Tree Projects – 2016 and Beyond

January 15, 2016

DD presented six tree planting projects identified for 2016 and beyond. A motion was made to accept all of the projects for future action and was unanimously approved. There was discussion as to which project to tackle first. **JN** mentioned that this is an ideal time to apply for a grant for the triangle on Storey Avenue. **WA** mentioned that the City is seeking funds for the larger area at the Three Roads Intersection which may or may not materialize in the next few years and might affect any planting done before in the Gateway project. Vote to accept Gateway as first project: 6 in favor, one against (**ST**).

Gateway:

Scope: Plant trees and shrubs in street entry points into Newburyport. FoNT lead. **DD** is Project advocate.

Financing: To be funded by donations and grants coordinated by Friends of Newburyport Trees (FoNT).

Status: Project 1 has been identified as the triangle on Storey Ave. next to Cornelius Doyle Triangle Tim Heatwole, landscape architect, is designing plans for the triangle.

Action: **JN** will create grant application for the CPA meeting in February.

Green Street:

Scope: Plant approximately 33 trees on Green Street between High Street and Pleasant Street. **TC** lead. **PH** is project advocate.

Financing: Fully funded

Status: 7 trees planted in 2015.

Action: Remaining trees to be planted in Spring or Fall of 2016 upon completion of sidewalk restoration.

High Street

Scope: Restore the beauty of a unified street entry way to Newburyport on High Street. Replace over 100 trees that have be removed for hazardous reason or have died. FoNT lead. **CM** is project advocate.

Financing: To be funded by donations and grants coordinated by FoNT.

Status: An inventory of all the street trees and potential planting locations has been taken. A pallet of small and large trees have been selected as possible trees for planting. Tim Heatwole will create a preliminary design.

Action: **JN** will create a target source of grants and donors for funding.

Industrial Park

Scope: Populate the industrial park with trees to help mitigate flooding and to beautiful the location. **TC** lead. **Need project advocate.**

Financing: To be funded by donations and grants coordinated by FoNT.

Status: Preliminary planning discussions have started.

Action: **DD** and **CM** will meet with the City Planning Director and staff.

Spring/Fall Yearly Planting

Scope: Plant at least 15 street trees in the Spring and Fall of each year. Tree care or those trees will last for two years. These trees will begin to replace the hazardous trees that are taken down each year and trees that die. **TC** lead. **BG** is Project advocate.

Financing: Funding is provided by the City, supplemented by other sources as needed and available.

Status: The program is on-going coordinated by the **Tree Warden/TC**

Action: Additional funding is required to expand the program. Various sources are being explored.

Woodman Way

Scope: Populate the housing development streets with trees. **TC** lead.

Financing: To be funded by donations and grants coordinated by FoNT.

Status: Preliminary planning discussions have started.

Action: **Project advocate needed.**

OLD BUSINESS

Tree Watering

Scott Hanley was not able to attend the meeting. It is anticipated that Scott may be able to attend a future meeting to share his insights into the watering process and related issues which he gained from his experience in 2015. The **TC** agreed unanimously to move forward to identify a contractor/ contractors to provide watering services in 2016.

FY 17 Budget

PH/PB have developed a final budget proposal in consultation with **CM**. It will be submitted to the **TC** for final action as soon as **PH** is able to distribute it to members. At the December meeting **PH/PB** submitted an updated draft of the FY 17 budget for the **TC** to consider for submission. Upon review the **TC** gave initial approval subject to **PB /PH** finalizing the narrative

section of the proposal. That work was completed, but final action was postponed due the **PH**'s absence.

List of Recommended Street Trees

BG, DD, and CM submitted a final list to submit to the Commission for review and approval. In developing this list they reviewed the current list and considered both new information and long term plans. The goal is a short, amendable list of recommended trees which will guide decisions by homeowners and the City. The list was reviewed, discussed, and approved unanimously after substantial discussion and clarification.

Adopt-A-Tree Program (AATP) and Friends of Newburyport Trees (FoNT)

The final description and processes for the AATP to be initiated were reviewed, discussed, and approved. The relationship of Friends of Newburyport Trees (FoNT) to the **TC** was further clarified. It was agreed that two separate documents will be distributed. One will describe the AATP. The other will be distributed by FoNT and will describe and provide guidance as to how individuals may donate funds to purchase trees to be planted by the **TC** to the City through FoNT.

New Business

John Bromfield Trust Fund: **WA** confirmed that the City Council had transferred authority for oversight of this fund to the DPS. There are aspects of the conditions of use of the funds and the current value of the fund which must be clarified before DPS can take action to access the funds for planting trees and repairing/building sidewalks. **WA** will keep the **TC** informed as this progresses in the coming months.

Election of Officers

CM and **PH** were nominated to for reelection for 2016 in their respective positions of Chair and Vice Chair. They were elected unanimously. Additionally, **PB** was elected a Secretary and **PH** as Treasurer. The vote for these positions was also unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Paul M. Bevilacqua, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday February 11, 2016 at 7 PM

Location: Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library