

Newburyport Tree Commission
Minutes March 10, 2016
Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library

Meeting Convened at 7:04 PM.

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

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

Others Present: S. Hanley

Open time for Residents

No residents were present.

Report of the Secretary

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

Report of the Treasurer

PH, the Treasurer, was absent. **CM**, in the absence of **PH** due to injury, has continued to fill in as Treasurer, in consultation with Finance Committee member **PB**. The March financials were submitted, discussed, and approved.

Report of the Tree Warden (WA): February and March 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 Position has been filed. Steve Keville.
3. FY17 Budget. Submitted free cash request for \$15,000 for additional tree planting and \$9,000 for EAB spraying. (still waiting on status of this request from Mayors Office)
4. Attended meetings with Paul B. and Ed T. regarding the preparation of the Tree Regulations and Tree Protection Guidelines. And also prepared tree watering contract with Cris M.

Committee Reports

Planting and Pruning Committee

DD led the presentation subcommittees

Green Street

BG has the trees ordered and ready to plant. **WA** reported that the pace of the street repair project is such that it appears that the trees can be planted beginning in mid-August.

Spring Planting

Funds have been approved and the decision to plant up to 16 trees in the Spring 2016 was reaffirmed.

High Street

DD reported that both Gateway 1 and 2 has been submitted to FoNT to seek grant funding. **DD** will report on the progress of this collaboration with FoNT

Pruning and Mulching

DD reiterated that Saturday April 23 and April 30 have been finalized for the annual pruning and mulching led by the **TC**.

Tree Regulation Committee:

ET, PB, and WA distributed copies of the proposed **Tree Regulations for the Protection of Public Trees** and **The Guide for the Protection of Public Trees**. Such Regulations, developed by the **TW** in consultation with the **TC**, are required by the Tree Ordinance. The Committee explained that the documents will be on line for public information and use, and that they are subject to periodic updating, review, and change in consultation with the **TC**, as needed. The Tree Regulation Committee will reconvene, as needed, to consult with the **TW**. T. Heatwole has also agreed to provide advice on these documents.

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Tree Watering

Scott Hanley was present to report on the work that he completed as a volunteer watering trees in 2015. He reported that it required approximately three hours each week to water the 57 trees. He reported too that it required nearly two full tanks, which included one refill, to complete the watering each day. Additionally, while visiting each site, he checked on the condition of the gator bags. He replaced about 10, as needed. (**CM** noted that he had repaired several). Otherwise Scott reported that the project went very smoothly. He offered to be of assistance again in the future if needed.

As agreed at the February 11 **TC** meeting, **CM** and **WA** submitted a final contract format for the period May-October for **TC** action. After substantial discussion and clarification the document was unanimously approved; and, the Chair was authorized to sign a contract once a contractor has been identified and an agreement has been reached on a payment consistent with funds approved and available.

Collaborative Effort with Friends of Newburyport Trees (FoNT)

As previously agreed, **JN** has remained in contact with FoNT. She updated the **TC** on the progress of FoNT grant proposals and opportunities. FoNT informed the **TC** of a grant opportunity **from The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)**. After considerable discussion it was unanimously agreed to donate up to \$500 worth of trees to be planted as public trees as part of a match in a public/private proposal if such would strengthen the proposal. Funding for the trees would come from the Revolving Account.

Earth Port Film Festival

The **TC** will be manning a table with tree information from **5-6 pm** in the lobby of The 5th Annual Earth Port Film Festival (<http://www.earthportfilm.org/>) at the Firehouse on April 10. The festival organizers will not be able to get into the space until 4 pm themselves, so they have asked us to come at 4:20-4:30 to set up our table. Members participating will meet in the art gallery downstairs at 4:15 in anticipation of going upstairs to arrange the **TC** table as soon as permitted to do so.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Paul M. Bevilacqua, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday April 14, 2016 at 7 PM

Location: Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library