

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

**Meeting Convened at 7:00 PM.**

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

**Members Absent:** Paul Harrington (Vice Chair and Treasurer) (**PH**), Sheila Taintor (**ST**),

**Open time for Residents**

No residents were present

**Report of the Secretary**

The Minutes of the March 10 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

**Report of the Treasurer**

The Treasurer was absent. **CM**, in the absence of **PH** due to injury, developed and presented updated financial report.

**Report of the Tree Warden (WA): April 2016**

1. Tree Warden Summary for 2016.

- 24 High Hazard trees have been removed this year.
- The most recent trees are;

Bartlett Mall – A (14.0’)

Bartlett Mall – B (20.4’)

Bartlett Mall – C (11.5’)

Bartlett Mall – D (33.6’)

Bartlett Mall – E (16.8’)

#6 Coombs Circle

#19 Cushing Avenue

#27 Elmira Avenue

#120 High Street (2 trees)

#146 High Street

#19 Jefferson Street (2 trees)

#56 Kent Street

Opp #44A Kent Street

#6 Lincoln Street

Nock Middle School - 4 trees

#55 Purchase Street

#39 Toppans Lane (behind house in school yard)

#25 Turkey Hill Road

#47 Tyng Street

- 0 Non-High Hazard trees have been removed.

2. Bromfield Fund: **WA** reported that there a funds held in a trust from a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century benefactor, Mr. Bromfield, specifically to support public sidewalks and planting public trees. It is not clear at this time how the funds will be disbursed or how much will be available. A committee has been appointed by the Mayor to oversee this fund. **WA, JN, CM** will seek additional information.

### **Committee Reports**

**Tree Regulation Committee:** The Committee submitted the Guide for the Protection of Public Trees and a newly proposed Check List for the Guide for consideration and adoption of the **TC**. The Guide included some limited changes in language and the format was changed a little in line with suggestions by Tim Heatwole. The Guide Check List was developed by the Committee as a quick way for interested parties to identify tree protection advice. It will serve, in effect, as a table of contents for the Guide.

The **TC** unanimously approved both documents which are now part of the City Tree Plan, which also includes the Tree Ordinance, the Tree Inventory, and the Tree Regulations.

### **River Valley Charter School Collaboration (RVCS)**

**ET** confirmed that the RVCS will pay for up to four trees to be planted on April 27 on the center strip on Perry Way opposite the School. FoNT will donate one tree to be certain that four are planted on Perry Way if RVCS is only able to donate three. Arrangements have been made for DPS workers to assist and for the Daily News to cover the event.

### **Planting and Pruning Committee**

**DD** coordinated/gave the presentations for each subcommittee

#### **Spring Planting 2016**

**DD and BG** that Northeast Nursery has reserved up to 17 trees, most of which are now on hand. The contractor has been hired to plant the trees. The Dig Safe locations were viewed and approved. During the discussion it was agreed that a total of 17 trees will be planted, including trees that are part of the Adopt-A-Tree Program and donated trees. The **TC** unanimously agreed to purchase four less trees than planned to allow sufficient funds for watering. The five trees will be part of the trees planted in the Fall.

#### **Green Street**

**BG and WA** reported that the project is set to begin likely at the end of July once contracts have been signed. Trees will be planted at an appropriate point in the process. The contractor has been hired to plant the trees and the trees have been ordered.

#### **Pruning and Mulching**

Saturday April 23 and April 30 have been finalized for the annual pruning and mulching led by the **TC**. Three trucks and crews will be involved.

#### **Newburyport High School Collaboration**

**DD** announced that the Newburyport High School Environmental Club will plant a tree near the corner of High Street and Toppans Lane.

### **Emerald Ash Borer**

**DD** distributed literature regarding the Emerald Ash Borer and had signs available which can be posted on trees in a safe manner to engage the community to dealing with this threat.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Collaborative Efforts with Friends of Newburyport Trees (FoNT)**

**JN** reported again that meetings had been held with FoNT, which has submitted two grant proposals to support previously accepted Gateway Projects 1 and 2. One grant was to the CPA for funds to purchase trees for Project 1, the Cornelius Doyle Triangle. The other is to for the purchase for three trees for Project 2, Storey Avenue in front of the Home for Aged Men. **JN** will remain in contact with FoNT and will update the TC on the progress of the grant proposals.

### **City Tree Plan**

The Tree Ordinance calls for the creation of a City Tree Plan which is to be updated annually. The TC agreed that the components of a tree plan have now been adopted. **PB** agreed to develop an overview statement for the Tree Plan. It will be submitted it to the May 12 meeting for review.

## **New Business**

### **Business Cards for Commissioners**

**JN** presented a sample business card to be distributed by Commissioners and others to provide contact information for the various tree related issues. The proposed card was approved unanimously along with the funds to pay for their printing.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Paul M. Bevilacqua, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday May 12, 2016 at 7 PM

Location: Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library