**Newburyport Tree Commission**

**Minutes June 11, 2015**

**Newburyport Tree Commission**

**Director’s Room, Newburyport Public Library**

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

**Tree Commissioners (TC) present:** Sheila Taintor **(ST),** Paul Bevilacqua (Secretary) **(PB)**, David Dylewski **(DD**), Byron Getchell **(BG)**, Wayne Amaral, Tree Warden and Director of the Department of Public Services, ex-officio **(WA)**, Ed Taylor **(ET)**, Paul Harrington (Vice Chair and Treasurer) **(PH**)

**Members Absent**: Crispin Miller **(**Chair**) (CM),**

**Others Present**: J. Esche, NUFA, S. Hanley, volunteer

**Open time For Residents**

Scott Hanley of Milk Street was introduced as a volunteer who has offered to work with the **TC.**

**Report of the Secretary**

The Minutes of the May 14 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

**Report of the Treasurer**

The report was reviewed and unanimously approved.

**PH** also submitted a summary of the anticipated FY 2016 spending plan for review and discussion. There was agreement with the plan as outlined.

**Report of the Tree Warden**

1. Tree Warden Summary for June, 2015.
* 12 Trees have been review by the tree warden.
* 3 High Hazard trees has been removed.
	+ 1 Goldsmith Drive @ Turkey Hill Rd
	+ 16A Perry Way (26”)
	+ 1 Elmira Avenue (44”)
* 0 Non-High Hazard trees have been removed.
1. Green Street reconstruction – Can the tree commission evaluate the tree in front of #41 Green Street. **DD** will view and report of **WA.**
2. Spring planting tree pits.
3. #40 High Street – New tree planted by Accident Recovery Company.

**Sub-Committee Reports**

 **Education**

 **ST** said that she had no report

 **Planting and Pruning Committee**

 **DD** led a multi-part report by members of the sub-committees.

**Green Street Planting**

**PH** identified and sent RFQ to five contractors. They are due by June 24. He also submitted an RFP to Northeast Nurseries for purchase of the trees, subject to the bidding process. The timing of the planting of the trees remains uncertain due to a variety of factors not within the control of the **TC**.

 **Spring 2015 Planting**

**BG** reported that the project is on hold. He expects to begin planting the 15 trees as soon as the issue of watering trees is finalized. **WA** once again confirmed DPS support for the planting and cutting out the sidewalk for the pits to be dug and the trees planted. As agreed, **DD** will work with **WA** to confirm sites for Dig Safe to be completed.

**Street Tree Inventory Management**

**DD** reported thatwith the inventory has been completed.  The inventory has reporting capability that will allow valuable data analysis. The inventory requires consistent updates. **DD,** once again**,** thanked J. Esche for all of his critically important work throughout the project

**Collaboration with the River Valley Charter School (RVCS)**

**ET** reported that the planting project will be tabled and delayed until the Fall. Additionally, the location must be reviewed to be certain that it is viable and to determine the best, salt tolerant specie to plant given the location. **DD** has submitted soil samples at UNH for analysis.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Update: FY 16 Budget Process**

Final action has not been taken, but it appears likely that a line, or a part of a line, will be approved in the DPS budget for $10,000 for the management and care of trees. **WA** indicated that he is expected to spend these funds in consultation with the **TC**. **WA** hopes to preserve all of the funds in this line for **TC** use. Should an emergency arise which requires these funds to be considered for reallocation, he will consult with the **TC**.

**Calendar Review**

The Calendar was not reviewed.

**Tree Watering**

The contractor who was hired in May to do the watering is not able to fullfill his contract due to health problems. Therefore, **PH** will move ahead to finalize the selection of a contractor in collaboration with **WA** and other Commissioners involved in the project. S. Hanley offered to be considered to complete the watering. **WA, PH**, and others will further discuss the matter with him, and make a decision on completion of the contract ASAP.

The **TC** unanimously approved an authorization to spend the additional funds necessary to pay for the watering if it exceeds the $4,750 which it had previously been approved. Once the issue of watering has been finalized by the selection of a contractor, the Spring trees will be selected, purchased and planted. (See Spring 2015 Planting above) As discussed in the past, the CPA grant will be used first and then the funds in the account for tree care in the DPS budget. If needed, available fund in the Revolving Account will be drawn upon.

It was also agreed that the primary budgetary priority going forward for City funds is and will be watering trees. The **TC** reiterated that unless there is watering/tree care, there will not be any planting. This responsibility must be institutionalized within the city budget.

The **TC** will also seek funds from various sources to purchase and plant trees.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Fundraising to support tree purchases**

This item was not considered. It will be placed on a future agenda

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul M. Bevilacqua, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday July 9, 2015 at 7 PM

Location: Children’s Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library