**Newburyport Tree Commission**

**Minutes July 9, 2015**

**Children’s Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library**

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

**Tree Commissioners (TC) present:** Crispin Miller **(**Chair**) (CM),** Sheila Taintor **(ST),** Paul Bevilacqua (Secretary) **(PB)**, Byron Getchell **(BG)**, Ed Taylor **(ET**)

**Members Absent**: David Dylewski **(DD**), Paul Harrington (Vice Chair and Treasurer) **(PH**), Wayne Amaral, Tree Warden and Deputy Director/ Director of Operations Department of Public Services, ex-officio **(WA)**

**Others Present**: J. Esche, NUFA, J. Niebling **(JN)**

**Open time For Residents**

Jeff Esche of NUFA addressed the Board. He said in part:

Please join Northeast Urban Forest Advocacy 501(c3) in celebrating the presentation of 160 books on trees and forestry to the Newburyport Public Library, Emma Andrews Library & Community Center, Newburyport High School, River Valley Charter School, and the Hillview Charter School (Haverhill). Other guests will include forestry people from MA-DCR Urban Forestry, National Grid, Mass Tree Wardens & Foresters Assn. librarians, students, school teachers, city and state officials.

The shelves will be on exhibition in project partner Jabberwocky Books, July 23-24

*This project funded by a DCR-National Grid Urban Forestry Challenge Grant”*

**New Tree Commission Member**

**Jane Niebling’s** nomination to the **TC** was approved by the City Council at the First Reading. It is expected that she will receive final approval on July 13. Jane was a long time member of the Tree Committee. She brings her expertise in grant writing and her community involvement to the **TC** with whom she has worked as a volunteer for the last year. The **TC** heartily welcomed her return.

**Report of the Secretary**

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

**Report of the Treasurer**

The Treasurer was not present but he submitted his report in advance. The report was reviewed and unanimously approved.

**Report of the Tree Warden: July 2015**

1. Tree Warden Summary for 2015.

* 15 Trees have been reviewed by the tree warden.
* 0 High Hazard trees have been removed.
* 0 Non-High Hazard trees have been removed.

1. Spring planting tree pits have been dug by DPS and are ready for trees.
2. #40 High Street – A new tree planted by Accident Recovery Company. Again, can this tree be added to our watering list? (The Commission agreed to add it to the list)
3. On September 23, 2015, David Lefcourt, Tree Warden for the City of Cambridge will be hosting a tree planting class at the Water Waste Facility on Water Street. More details to follow. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

**Sub-Committee Reports**

**Education**: **ST** said that there was nothing to report. This item will be reported upon again beginning in the Fall.

**Planting and Pruning Committee**

In the absence of **DD, CM** led a multi-part report by members of the sub-committees.

**Green Street Planting**

**BG** reported that the quote for the American Elm, disease resistant trees, has been received and the pits have been/will be dug. The trees will be planted in up to six pits from the High Street to Washington Street aside of Immaculate Conception School and the top of Green Street. The remainder of the street repair project has not yet been approved. Planting is planned for September or early October. BG will work with WA to get the trees planted.

It is anticipated that the remainder of the sidewalk work will be completed no later than early December. The remaining trees will be planted in the Spring 2016.

**Spring 2015 Planting**

**BG** reported that the project has been completed. A total of 15 trees were planted. Of these 14 were paid for by public funds and one was donated by a resident.

**Fall 2015 Planting**

The **TC** voted unanimously to purchase and plant up to 15 trees this Fall, drawing upon the funds provided in the DPS line. The **TC** approved up to $7,500 for this purchase, subject to final approval by the Tree Warden, **WA**. It was understood by the TC that this planting conditions might require that the planting extend into the Spring of 2016.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Calendar Review**

The Calendar was reviewed. It was agreed that the Commission would likely meet each month, although the Ordinance requires only 10 meetings per year. The **TC** believed that it was essential to continue to meet to maintain momentum and to make timely decisions.

**Tree Watering**

S. Hanley, who volunteered to complete the watering, will be reimbursed for his expenses at a rate of $240.00 per month for three months. **WA, PH**, **CM** finalized he agreement with Scott. In the past three weeks since he began his work there has been sufficient rain. He has yet to need to water. As discussed in the past, his reimbursement will be drawn from the CPA grant first, and then the funds in the account for tree care in the DPS budget. If needed, available funds in the Revolving Account will be drawn upon.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Fundraising to Support Tree Purchases**

**JN** submitted the basic outline of a concept to raise funds for the purchase of trees and related work to supplement the funds provided by the City. After discussion it was agreed to create a subcommittee to further develop the concept. As part of this it was also agreed that it would be best to work with the nonprofit group Newburyport Trees. **CM** appointed a subcommittee including **JN, PB, ST and PH** to develop this initial stage and to present a brief outline of goals and purpose at the August **TC** meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul M. Bevilacqua, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday August 13, 2015 at 7 PM

Location: Children’s Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library