

Newburyport Tree Commission
Minutes August 11, 2016
Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library

Meeting Convened at 7:00 PM.

Tree Commissioners (TC) present: Crispin Miller (Chair) (**CM**) Sheila Taintor (**ST**); David Dylewski (**DD**), 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**)

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

Others Present: **Kim Kudym**, nominated by Mayor Holaday to serve as a **TC Alternate**, awaiting a second reading by the City Council for approval, **Joe Teixeira, Chair Newburyport Conservation Commission**

Open time for Residents

Report of the Secretary

The Minutes of the July14 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Report of the Treasurer

PH, the Treasurer, was absent. **CM**, once again, in his absence, developed and presented an updated financial report. The report outlined anticipated and funds currently available in FY 2017, along with projections for FY 18. The report was approved unanimously.

Report of the Tree Warden (WA): August 2016

August 2016

1. Tree Warden Summary 2016

- 94 High Hazard trees have been removed this year.
- The most recent trees are;
 - Bromfield St #54
 - Greenleaf St @ Pond St
 - Farrell St #18
 - Myrtle St #18
 - New Bresnahan School Access Driveway (3 Trees)
 - Oak St #23
 - Summit Pl #24
 - Turkey Hill Rd #79
 - Willow Ave #9
 - Willow Ave #10
- 0 Non-High Hazard trees have been removed.

2. Green Street sidewalk construction beginning July 18, 2016. Fall tree planting should be planned. Cris Miller and Dave Dylewski have confirmed sites.
3. SCC – Tree Health Report. Looking for volunteer to conduct Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 evaluation.

WA noted that the number of trees removed in 2016 reflects the **DPS'** ability to catch up with a back log of hazard trees which had developed over a period of several years. In the future, it is anticipated, barring unforeseen situations, that roughly 50/60 trees, or about five each month, will need to be removed due to their hazardous condition. The **TC** congratulated **WA** and his staff for their professionalism and their attention to his very important matter.

Trees to be planted by the end of the Fall. **DD** and **CM** volunteered to complete Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 tree evaluations as requested by **WA**.

Committee Reports

Tree Regulations/ Tree Plan Committee

The Committee completed its work and its reports were approved at the May meeting. The documents are now posted on line. It is likely that the Committee will continue to work with the Tree Warden as needed to update the documents.

Planting and Pruning Committee

DD provided an overview of the reports which were presented.

Fall Planting 2016

BG reported that the 15 trees will be planted by December. There is concern about avoiding piling too soon given the on-going heat wave. **DD** and **CM** will mulch the trees after they are planted

Green Street

BG reported, as noted in the Tree Warden's report, that planting will likely be planned for the late Fall, upon completion of the sidewalk/roadway construction.

in the future for the Spring or in the Fall. The **TC** will give consideration to that possibility.

Collaborative Projects with FoNT.

DD reported that, as previously described by **JN**, the **TC** in collaboration with FoNT, submitted a grant proposal to the CPA to support Gateway Project 1 (Triangle) which had previously been approved by the **TC** for submission. The proposal was not funded. Additionally, as previously approved by the **TC**, a proposal was submitted to the Merrill Foundation for Gateway 2. That grant is currently under consideration.

JN will remain in contact with FoNT and will update the **TC** on the progress of the grant proposals. **JN** noted that, as previously approved by the **TC**, she had submitted a grant proposal to the Newburyport Five Cent Savings Bank for \$2,500. A grant of \$1,000 was awarded for trees for Gateway 1. Additionally, as previously approved by the **TC**, a proposal was submitted to the Merrill Foundation for Gateway 2. That grant is currently under consideration.

JN had also submitted a grant proposal to the Institution for Savings for similar funding. That grant proposal was not funded.

Collaborative proposals involving various agencies and organizations are also being considered for work in the Industrial Park.

Old Business

Update: Tree Care

Watering has progressed very well. The contractor has done an excellent job.

FY 17 Budget

The Mayor and Council made \$15,000 available in the FY 17 budget to allow the **TC** to continue its purchase, planting, and tree care/watering program.

New Business

Grant Opportunities

JN and **CM** proposed that the **TC** submit a grant proposal to the Trust Commission of the City of Newburyport to request \$12,000 for the purchase of trees to be planted in various street locations. The **TC** voted unanimously to submit a proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Paul M. Bevilacqua, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday September 8, 2016 at 7 PM

Location: Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library