­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­Newburyport Tree Commission

 **Minutes September 8, 2016**

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

**Meeting Convened at 7:06 PM.**

**Tree Commission members (TC) present:** Crispin Miller **(**Chair**) (CM);** David Dylewski **(DD**), Paul Bevilacqua (Secretary) **(PB)**, Byron Getchell **(BG),** JaneNiebling **(JN),** WayneAmaral, Tree Warden and Deputy Director/Director of Operations Department of Public Services, ex-officio **(WA)**

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

**Others Present:** Kim Kudym**,** nominated by Mayor Holaday to serve as a **TC Alternate,** awaiting final action by the City Council**;** Constance Preston, nominated for a voting member seat on the **TC**, also awaiting Council approval, and Susan Williamson

**Open time for Residents**

No residents chose to speak at this time. C. Preston was introduced to the **TC** as she has been nominated as a voting member of the **TC.** She awaits final action by the City Council.

**Report of the Secretary**

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

**Report of the Treasurer**

**PH,** the Treasurer, was absent. **CM,** in his absence, developed and presented an updated financial report. **CM** noted that he had worked with C. Preston in developing the report, as she has the appropriate experience/expertise, and has agreed to assume the role of Treasurer once the Council has approved her **TC** membership. The report outlined anticipated and funds currently available along with actual and project expenditures in FY 2017, along with projections for FY 18, and on a limited basis, 2019.

The report was approved unanimously.

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

1. Tree Warden Summary for 2016.
* 105 High Hazard trees have been removed this year.
* The most recent trees are;
	+ Allen St #7
	+ Boardman St #29
	+ Broad St #39
	+ Brown School Playground (5 small trees)
	+ Harnichs Way
	+ Hill St #9
	+ Hill St #11
	+ Tyng St #25
	+ Federal St #84
	+ Bromfield St @ Hancock St
* 0 Non-High Hazard trees have been removed.
1. Green Street sidewalk construction should finish in the next 2 weeks. ( By the end of September) The pits are ready for trees.

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

**Committee Reports**

**Tree Regulations/ Tree Plan Committee**

The Committee completed its work, and its reports were approved at the May meeting. The Committee will continue to work with the Tree Warden, as needed, to update the documents.

The **TC,** on a recommendation by **PB,** unanimously approved this as a standing committee which will be placed on the agenda for each meeting to report on any activity. **PB** was appointed as chair, and will serve with **WA,** and a member to be designated, to replace **ET** who is no longer a member of the **TC**. **CM** will appoint the additional member in consultation with **PB**.

 **Planting and Pruning Committee**

 **DD** provided an overview of the reports which were presented.

**2016 Fall Planting**- **BG** reported that the 16 trees will be secured and the locations have been identified. They will be planted in late September or October.

**Green Street**- **BG** and **WA** reported that the locations for the 25 or so Princeton Elms have been secured. The pits are in place, and the trees will be planted by the end of September.

**Gateway 1**- **DD** reported that there has not been any new action in August.

**Gateway 2**- **DD** reported that there has been limited action to date. This location, at the rotary at the western end of Merrimac Street by the Chain Bridge will have two trees planted. The two trees are a donation by FoNT as a result of a grant from The Five Cent Savings Bank. The **TC** voted unanimously to purchase the trees and plant the trees with the donation, and to assume the cost of tree care, including watering, for these trees.

**High Street**- **DD** reported that this project is active and that 20 trees, locations to be determined, will be planted along High Street in the Spring 2017, using the $12,000 received in response to the proposal which was made and submitted by the **TC** at the August 11 meeting for funds from the Bromfield Trust. The funds were awarded by the City Of Newburyport Trust Fund Commission. The **TC** is working with landscape architect, T. Heatwole, who has volunteered his services to develop a recommendation for **TC** action. Planting is anticipated in the Spring of 2017.

**Grants**

**JN** noted that, as previously approved by the **TC,** she and **CM** had submitted a grant proposal to the City of Newburyport Trust Fund Commission for a Bromfield Trust Fund award of $12,000. As noted in **DD’s** report, the grant was received.

The **TC** voted unanimously voted to place Grants on the agenda for each month for reports, when appropriate, on the many grants that have been submitted by the **TC.**

The **TC** voted unanimously to have **JN** develop a grant proposal to the TD Bank for $4,000 for a Community Sponsorship grant to extend the tree watering program until November 1. The current contract will end soon and presently sufficient funds are not available for watering.

**JN** also reported that Hugh Kelleher’s company, Construction Quality Analysis, has offered to donate enough money for one week of watering to encourage matching funds. Hugh is the founding chair of the Tree Committee, the predecessor to the **TC,** and the former **TC** chair.

 **Collaborative Projects with FoNT**

**JN** reported that she will remain in contact with FoNT and will update the **TC** on the progress of grant proposals submitted by FoNT alone, or in collaboration with, the **TC.**

**JN** noted that, as previously approved by the **TC,** she had submitted a grant proposal to the City of Newburyport Trust Fund Commission for a Bromfield Trust Fund award of $12,000.

**Old Business**

**Update: Tree Care**

Watering has progressed very well. The contractor has done an excellent job. The drought has been record breaking in degree and duration.

As noted previously in the meeting, the **TC** voted unanimously, to seek alternative funds to extend the watering to November 1. Some sources were identified (see earlier items). The **TC** voted unanimously, although very reluctantly, to use a portion funds currently allocated for the purchase and planting of trees in the Spring 2017 for use in the extending the watering to Novmber1 (five weeks) if the grant proposals or the identification of alternative funding sources, are not successful.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Paul M. Bevilacqua, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday October 13, 2016 at 7 PM

Location: **Conference Room, Third Floor,** Newburyport Public Library