**Newburyport Tree Commission**

**Minutes October 8, 2015**

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

**Meeting Convened at 7:05 PM.**

**Tree Commissioners (TC) present:** Paul Bevilacqua (Secretary) **(PB)**, Ed Taylor **(ET**), J. Niebling **(JN),** Wayne Amaral, Tree Warden and Deputy Director/ Director of Operations Department of Public Services, ex-officio **(WA),** David Dylewski **(DD**); Paul Harrington (Vice Chair and Treasurer**)(WA)**

**Members Absent**: Sheila Taintor **(ST),** Crispin Miller **(**Chair**) (CM),** Byron Getchell **(BG)**

**Others Present**: M. Bagg, 56 Temple Street

**Open time For Residents**

M. Bagg said that she was attending at the invitation of **JN** to learn more about the work of the TC and to determine whether she might be interested in being involved in some way in the future. Mary raised questions, especially about watering which simulated a great deal of discussion.

**Report of the Secretary**

The Minutes of the September 9 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

**Report of the Treasurer**

The Treasurer’s report was discussed. All of the necessary data was not available to include in the report. It will be reviewed as part of the October report at the November 12 meeting.

**Report of the Tree Warden (WA): October 8, 2015**

**Sub-Committee Reports**

1. Tree Warden Summary for 2015.

* Trees have been review by the tree warden.
* 25 High Hazard trees have been removed this year.
* The most recent trees are;
  + 5-7Ashland Court
  + 1 Elmira Ave (44”)
  + 7 Lavalley Lane (3”)
  + Nock Middle School Property (four trees)
  + Perry Way (26”)
  + State St @ East Boylston St (25.7”)
  + 4 Columbus Ave
* 0 Non-High Hazard trees have been removed.

1. Fall planting planning underway – Tree locations have been Dig-Safed and reviewed by D Dylewski of the Tree Commission.
2. DPS promoted an internal candidate, Ken Wall, to tree crew supervisor.

**Planting and Pruning Committee**

**DD** reported for the sub-committees as other members were absent.

**Green Street Planting**

**DD** confirmed that the trees have been purchased and by the end of October eight will be planted in the six pits from the High Street to Washington Street along the side of Immaculate Conception School and at the top of Green Street along High Street. In **BG’s** absence, **DD** will work with WA to get the trees planted.

The remaining trees will be purchased and planted in the Spring/Summer 2016.

**Fall 2015 Planting**

**DD** confirmed that 16 trees have been purchased and planted by the end of October, drawing upon the funds provided in the DPS line for 15 trees. One tree will be paid for by a resident as part of the Adopt-a-Tree Program. The **TC** previously approved up to $7,500 for this purchase.

The Fall sites have been reviewed and given final approval for planting appropriateness and approved by **WA**. The trees will be planted by the end of October.

**Spring 2016 Planting**

**DD** will submit a list of trees and sites for the Spring planting at the February meeting. It was agreed that the final decision relative to tree purchase and planting for the Spring will be affected by the progress of plans for watering trees.

**Mulching**

**DD** confirmed that the 57 or more trees which were watered this season, along with the new trees be planted will also be mulched by the **TC**.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Tree Watering**

**DD** reported that S. Hanley had watered the trees through October 1. Scott will be asked to attend the November 12 meeting to share his insights into the watering process and related issues which he developed during the watering season.

The Commissioners agreed that it is an absolute priority to have a plan and a person in place by December for watering during the 2016 season from May-September. **JN** will take the lead, working with ET, in developing public information distribution to identify alternatives for watering the trees in 2016

Several ideas were explored, including contacting the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Essex Technical School (Danvers), and the University of New Hampshire (Durham), to identify for persons in their programs who might be interested in a part-time summer job watering.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Fundraising to Support Tree Purchases**

**JN** reported that members of the **TC** had met withthe leadership of Friends of Newburyport Trees (FONT) and to determine how they can work together to raise funds to support the purchase of trees. The meeting was very successful. They learned that FONT has elected new members to its board and that it is willing to work in a collaborative manner with the **TC**. They will continue to explore these opportunities, including the Adopt-A-Tree program.

**Tree Regulations**

The **TC** previously agreed to work with the Tree Warden to update the Tree Regulations which are addressed in the Tree Ordinance**. ET** is completing some research to determine areas which, in the process of developing the Ordinance, were determined to be best included in theRegulations rather than the Ordinance**.**

**WA** had agreed to submit a draft list of approved street trees for **TC** review at the September meeting. His work schedule did not permit him the time to accomplish this. Hopefully he will be able to do so soon. He will also work with the **TC** to further update the Regulations consistent with the Ordinance.

**Update: TC Materials on the City website**

The possibilities were discussed, but no action has been taken, including adding a copy of the Tree Ordinance to the **TC** webpage on the City of Newburyport website.

**FY 17 Budget**

**PH** submitted a draft of the budget for the **TC** to consider for submission for FY 17. **PH** asked members to review in preparation for the November **TC** meeting. **PH** will send electronic copies to all in order for those who were not in attendance to have them.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Paul M. Bevilacqua, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday November 12, 2015 at 7 PM

Location: Children’s Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library